Hafa Adai!

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DOF: Rota delegation owes NMI govt $564K

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Department of Finance claimed yesterday that the Rota Legislative Delegation owes the CNMI government over $564,000.

In a rundown of the delegation's debt that *Saipan Tribune* obtained yesterday, it says the delegation owes the CNMI government $564,032 from the Casino Annual License Fees Account.

This account supposedly gets $2 million each year when the casino licensee renews its license, paying the CNMI government $15 million. Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* late last night that the lone casino licensee, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, has yet to pay its license, which was due yesterday.

Saipan Tribune reached out to Commonwealth Casino Commission ex-

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NEW NMTI BOARD MEMBERS

Newly-confirmed Northern Marianas Technical Institute board members Carmelita Faisao, center, and Ray Pangelinan shake hands in a recess during last Friday's Senate session.

IPI subsidiaries now want District Court to hear case

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should the CNMI enact a law to allow concealed carry?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's subsidiaries—Grand Marianas (CNMI) LLC and Imperial Pacific Properties LLC—now want the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hear their claims in connection with IPI's lawsuit against the Commonwealth Casino

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Manila seeks visa waivers, H-2B access to Guam

A ranking Philippine official agrees with Guam's adviser on foreign affairs, Carl T.C. Gutierrez, that now is the time to reactivate "robust economic and cultural exchanges" between the Philip-

Photo shows Philippine Secretary Francisco P. "Nick" Acosta of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, left, and Philippine Consul General to Guam Marciano R. De Borja.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

pines and the U.S. territory.

In a statement issued on Aug. 4, it said that current conditions "should soon ripen toward (1) U.S. visa waivers for an increasingly affluent Philippine citizenry wishing to visit Guam and (2) unimpeded employment visas for qualified workers seeking jobs there.

The statement added that lifting present barriers "will go

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Local

DYS to present spending plan for $1.5M block grant

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

As required by its mandate, the Division of Youth Services presented its Fiscal Year 2020 Consolidated Block Grant state plan to the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill yesterday, to show how it plans to spend the $1.49 million it expects to get in fiscal year 2020.

Next up is a DYS presentation tomorrow at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

DYS will also be presenting on Tinian and Rota next week, on Aug. 20 and Aug. 22, respectively.

There will be a question-and-answer session for the public after each presentation.

Yesterday's presentation at the House of Representatives showed DYS' blueprint on how it plans to spend a total of $1,495,920 in grants and the programs and services that will DYS will implement in fiscal year 2020.

The meeting was intended to be a joint legislative meeting but the Senate was having a session at the time of the presentation.

Representing DYS were DYS administrator Vivian Sablan, Family Youth Enhancement Program supervisor Jennifer Tanaka, Juvenile Probation Unit supervisor Sylvio Ada, Child Protective Services supervisor Julian Camacho, and grants writer Rita Castro.

The lawmakers present at the meeting were House Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao (R-Saipan), vice speaker Lorenzo DLG (R-Saipan), and Reps. Joseph Flores (Ind-Saipan), Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Shiela Babauta (Ind-Saipan), Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Marco Peter (R-Saipan), Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan), Roman Benavente (R-Saipan), and Jose Itibus (R-Saipan).

DYS is under the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs.

According to Sablan, DYS is required by the grantor to conduct a legislative and public presentation of the CBG state plan every two years.

The CBG is provided through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Social Services Block Grant projects.

According to the presentation, a total of 29 programs and services are funded by CBG, ranging from emergency sheltering for children, to providing services for those dealing with substance abuse.

DYS invites the public to its state plan presentations. For those who are interested in receiving a copy of the state plan, electronic copies can be viewed and downloaded on the DYS website on dys.gov.mp or physical copies can be picked up at the DYS office at the Chalan Piao Plaza Building, next to the Bank of Guam in Chalan Piao.

Staff and officials of the Division of Youth Services pose with members of the CNMI House of Representatives shortly after the DYS Fiscal Year 2020 State Plan presentation on Capital Hill.

MARC A. VENUS

3 indicted over 50 grams of meth

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A federal grand jury has indicted three persons who allegedly conspired to possess over 50 grams of methamphetamine, with the intent to sell it.

The indictment against Vince Koki Leon Guerrero, Evelyn Chon Tydingco, and Elaine Francisco Demei was filed last Aug. 1 but was unsealed only late afternoon yesterday.

According to the indictment, Leon Guerrero, Tydingco, and Demei intentionally conspired, along with other persons, to possess over 50 grams of methamphetamine between Feb. 15 and 21, 2018, with the intent to distribute.

If they are convictied of the controlled substance offense, the U.S. government wants to forfeit any money or property derived from the offense.

No other details were provided in court documents.

Leon Guerrero and Tydingco appeared with their court-appointed counsel, Steven P. Pixley and David G. Banes, respectively, during the initial appearance hearing yesterday afternoon before U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government.

With respect to Demei's case, Backe and Demei's court-appointed counsel Mark B. Hanson moved the court to continue the initial appearance hearing set for yesterday to the week of Aug. 19 to 23.

Scheduled water service interruption on Thursday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Middle Road and in Gualo Rai on Thursday, Aug. 15, from 8am to 5pm to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, AIC Marianas, Inc., to complete the installation of a new waterline on MacArthur Drive, Garapan as part of CUC's Gualo Rai Waterline Replacement Project.

Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water service soon after. As a result of the waterline replacement, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community.

CUC appreciates the public's understanding and patience throughout this project and will continue to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282. ***(PR)***

Tourism Topics
Tourism is everybody's business.
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
The Marianas
| Saipan | Tinian | Rota |
HAFA ADAI & TIBOW WAY
A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Heading out and about to enjoy The Marianas?

Personal safety is a matter of concern for visitors and tourists, alike. The Marianas Visitors Authority wants to share with you a few tips to ensure you have a fantastic time.

- Pamper your skin. Apply sunscreen 30 minutes before going out.
- Enjoy the sun, but not too much! Wear clothes that can provide sun protection.
- Stay hydrated for all day fun. Carry water with you in reusable containers.
- Swim with friends, and only enter the water if you're sure it's safe.
- Share a little love with wildlife. Use personal flotation devices to protect yourself and corals.
- Nothing puts a damper on going out like a blister! Use sensible footwear for outdoor activities.
- Follow the herd. Don't park in out of the way places, especially at night.
- Keep an eye on your valuables. Better yet, leave them at home or in the safety deposit box at your hotel.
- Venture around the Marianas and keep your cell phone battery life on high
- If there is an emergency, call 9-1-1.

Safety is preparation. Prepare to have fun; prepare to stay safe.

On The Marianas Calendar www.mymarianas.com

- **Rota Coconut Festival**
  Sept. 13-14, 2019
- **5th Annual International Festival of Cultures**
  Sept. 20-21, 2019
- **KONQER Enduro OCR Championship, Rota**
  Sept. 14, 2019
- **Chief Taga Day Festival, Tinian**
  Oct. 1-6, 2019

NWS expects hazardous seas to persist in Marianas

Even though Tropical Storm Krosa is still whirling away from the Marianas, its massive circulation, which extends 1,300 miles from southwest to northeast, coupled with winds of at least 20 knots would continue to generate large swells that will affect the region into the next weekend.

As of 1pm yesterday, the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam located Krosa 665 miles northwest of Agrihan, 700 miles northwest of Pagan, 725 miles northwest of Alamagan, and 850 miles northwest of Saipan. It has maximum sustained winds of 65mph and is moving west-northwest at 9mph.

Krosa will steadily move away from the Marianas and head toward Japan, but NWS said fresh to occasionally strong southwest to south winds remain across the Northern Islands and will be accompanied with stronger gusts of 30 to 35 mph as heavy showers pass over the islands.

Monsoon rain bands are beginning to lift farther north, but the Northern Islands will still see a few more waves of heavy rain and thunderstorms today, Tuesday, before drier weather returns.

NWS said rain rates of at least a half inch per hour in the heavier showers passing over Anatahan and up to 2 inches of rain is possible through today before winds and rain slowly subside. Large and hazardous waves will continue to affect the islands in the next several days, with the latest data showing that seas have decreased slightly to between 15 and 20 feet.

Residents on Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan are advised to monitor the situation closely and maintain necessary precautionary measures for possible gusty winds and heavy rain and to also stay informed on the latest statements or advisories.

High surf warning remains in effect throughout the Marianas and the broad monsoon winds south of Krosa will continue to generate dangerous surf along west- and north-facing reefs through tonight and hazardous surf through Friday night. This same swell will also produce a high risk of rip currents along all reefs except those facing east.

Dangerous surf of 13 to 17 feet will persist along west- and north-facing reefs through last night before gradually subsiding to hazardous levels of 11 to 14 feet this morning. Surf will slowly subside through the week, but remain hazardous through at least Friday.

Strong rip currents are also expected along north-, west-, and south-facing reefs through Friday night.

A high surf warning indicates that dangerous and battering waves will pound the shoreline. This will result in life-threatening conditions. The public is advised to avoid venturing out along west- and-north facing reefs and beaches. Large breaking waves can knock you down and cause serious injuries and strong rip currents will be life-threatening.

A small craft advisory also remains in effect through Tuesday night. NWS said combined seas of 11 to 14 feet will continue through last night before slowly subsiding today to between 10 and 12 feet. Seas will be slower to subside on Tinian and Saipan waters. The public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, are advised to avoid sailing in these conditions.

Keep in mind that even though the massive ocean swell is breaking on the edge of reefs, currents within bays and along beaches are much stronger than usual. Waves entering bays will still be large enough to catch folks off guard, especially small children.

The latest statements or advisories will be available through local media sources and NOAA weather radio broadcast on 162.5 megahertz, or call CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000 or 664-8000. The Northern Islands can contact CNMI EOC State Warning Point at high frequency single sideband radio on frequency 5.205.0. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Seas remain hazardous

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency reports that Tropical Storm Krosa continues its path away from the Marianas and, while showers continue to diminish, waters remain hazardous.

At about 2pm yesterday, Tropical Storm Krosa was located about 665 miles northwest of Agrihan, 700 miles northwest of Pagan, 725 miles northwest of Alamagan, and 850 miles northwest of Saipan.

Monsoon rain bands are beginning to lift farther north but the Northern Islands will still see a few more waves of heavy rain and thunderstorms through today before drier weather returns.

Latest data show that seas have decreased slightly to between 15 and 20 feet while wave models show seas falling to between 10 and 15 feet today and below 10 feet by Wednesday night.

Dangerous surf will continue to batter south-, west-, and north-facing reefs in the Marianas through today before finally beginning to subside the remainder of the week.

Due to the threat, HSEM is advising everyone to stay away from reefs and shorelines and interisland travel by boat should be avoided until midweek when seas and winds begin to subside.

Krosa maintains maximum sustained winds of 65 mph and was seen moving west-northwest at 9mph. Krosa is steadily moving away from the Marianas and heading toward Japan.

Fresh to occasionally strong southwest to south winds remain across the Northern Islands and will be accompanied by stronger gusts of 30 to 35 mph as heavy showers pass over the islands.

Residents of Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan are being advised to monitor the situation closely and maintain necessary precautionary measures for possible gusty winds and heavy rain and to also stay informed on the latest statements or advisories. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Scheduled water service outage on Friday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption in Koblerville, San Antonio, Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, San Jose and Chalan Laulau Beach Road to Quartermaster Road on Friday, Aug. 16, from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

This would allow water operations personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to repair a damaged 18-inch water mainline break along As Perdido Road. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water service soon after.

CUC appreciates the public's understanding and patience throughout this project and will continue to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282. ***(PR)***

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EPA has $36.3M funding for 38 CUC projects

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has three grants for 38 Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Stipulated Order No. 1 projects, with total funding amount of $36,270,224, according to CUC last week.

The court-mandated SO1 focuses on drinking water and wastewater and the restructuring of CUC's organization.

CUC, through deputy attorney general Lillian Ada Tenorio, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that, as of June 30, 2019, the total balance funding is $31,209,393.

In CUC's status report, Tenorio said that, as of July 31, 2019, seven of those projects have been completed, while the remaining are under construction, in design phase, or undergoing procurement processing.

She disclosed that CUC has also one active grant coming from the U.S. Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration for the sum of $1,579,292 for the Lower Base Sewer Phase 1-Lift Stations and Forcemain project. Tenorio said a construction contract has already been awarded.

She said the U.S. Department of the Interior/Office of Insular Affairs has an additional grant funding of $450,000 for the Kagman Booster Station Renovation and $212,824 for the Lower Base Sewer Phase 1-Lift Stations and Forcemain project.

Tenorio added that the total appropriated funds from several local appropriation laws is $1,697,241, including the additional funding of $313,600 for the Lower Base Sewer Phase I-Lift Stations and Forcemain project.

MANILA

From Page 1

a long way toward advancing shared benefits between the U.S. Department of Defense and the people of Guam and the Philippines."

The news release was issued soon after the visit to Guam of retired Philippine Court of Appeals associate justice Francisco P. "Nick" Acosta, who is now the Philippine secretary of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas.

In a recent interview with Nestor Licanto of the Guam television station KUAM, Acosta praised Gov. Lourdes A. "Lou" Leon Guerrero's policies toward the Philippines and former Guam governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez, who now serves as Leon Guerrero's chief advisor on economic development, national and international, for promoting those policies.

"Through the efforts of former governor Carl Gutierrez, acting for and on behalf of...incumbent governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero, we were able to have an initial conference with our executive secretary," he said.

Returning the gesture

Acosta was in Guam this past week as a result of Gutierrez's multiple missions to the Philippines and regular correspondence with the Duterte government since March of this year. During an informal reception at Malacañang Palace in April, Gutierrez enlisted the endorsement of Salvador C. Medialdea—President Rodrigo Duterte's executive secretary—for the formation of a Philippines-Guam Visa Task Force.

"In fact, during my visit, I asked…Medialdea to appoint a high-level attaché to represent the Philippines in pursuit of a joint effort to persuade the U.S. government to grant visa waivers to Philippine citizens wishing to visit…Guam while loosening onerous restrictions on Filipino skilled workers seeking employment here on island," Gutierrez said.

He thanked Acosta for his visit, saying, "To have someone of Secretary Acosta's stature visit Guam is really so much more than I expected! His special diplomatic mission tells me that Malacañang values this relationship as much as Adelup and the people of Guam do," he said.

Gutierrez organized a dinner meeting for Acosta, Philippine Consul General to Guam Marciano R. De Borja, and Vice Consul Alex O. Vallespin. Among guests were Black Construction Corp.'s senior vice president and general manager Leonard K. Kaee and vice president of Accounting & Finance Mark J. Mamczarz, both representing Guam contractors affected by the problematic H-2B process. The dinner took place Tuesday, July 30, at Hotel Nikko in Tumon, where discussion focused on H-2B issues.

"Since my request for a high-level appointment, our consulate here has received instructions to work with our administration to facilitate acquisition of a Philippine visa waiver," Gutierrez said. "Consul General De Borja has the go-ahead from Malacanang to begin working with Adelup and is now awaiting formalization of a collaborative working group to be promulgated by Gov. Leon Guerrero."

Acosta intimated to Gutierrez on Tuesday that remittances from the worldwide diaspora of Filipino workers had helped to end the feast-and-famine conditions between seedtime and twice-annual harvest in the Philippines decades ago. Acosta told Gutierrez he remains grateful that the money Filipino workers send back home accounts for as much as 10% of the Philippines' gross national product.

Clearing the hurdles

Current visa restrictions on Philippine passport holders stem in part from federally reported 40% overstay rates in the U.S. mainland at a time when qualified construction workers are sorely needed for capital improvement projects in civilian villages across Guam.

Filipino overstay rates in Guam are reportedly only at 3%, not nearly as steep as in the American mainland, where human trafficking is a suspected culprit.

It is hoped that by January of next year, the Philippines will be back on the U.S. Federal Register's list of nations pre-cleared for H-2A (temporary agricultural) and H-2B (non-agricultural skilled worker) visa permitting. Shy of that, Adelup and local contractors are hoping Guam will soon be exempted from the federal rule.

Guam's horizon

Meanwhile, a local population increase of thousands is expected as a result of (a) Guam's ensuing $8.7- billion U.S. military buildup, (b) rising demand for hotel rooms by regional travelers who are turned away from the island by the tens of thousands during peak vacation seasons, and (c) migration and job growth from new economic activity.

The federal government has approved up to 4,000 H-2B workers per year for construction projects within Guam's military bases, but local contractors have grown gun-shy about hiring Filipino workers due to costly new foreign-labor petitioning and application restrictions, as well as federal turn-down rates of up to 100 percent in recent years.

The total denial of new H-2B visas had stemmed from a growing federal perception that the Guam contracting community had repeatedly failed to demonstrate a "temporary need'" litmus test that "should have" sooner led to the training of an adequate local workforce. Nevertheless, some builders have bitten the bullet and taken the recruitment plunge, resulting in about 900 Filipino workers now on island and roughly 600 more already approved for work migration. It has been estimated that by 2022 or 2023, Guam will need as many as 6,000 to 7,000 skilled workers to meet the labor needs of the island's buildup era.

Peace and pragmatism

Acosta visit to Guam is being looked at as evidence that the Duterte Administration is prioritizing the wellbeing of the Philippines' centuries-old connections to Guam.

"Our government is willing to give all the cooperation it can in order to have that travel visa-free for Filipinos to Guam," Acosta told Licanto. "Our standard of living has significantly increased...so that Filipinos can now afford to visit other countries." ***(PR/ Saipan Tribune)***

SHRM conference this month

The Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter will be hosting an all-day conference on Aug. 14 at the at Hyatt Regency Saipan's ballroom that will focus on issues impacting the workplace today.

The conference will feature:

■ Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, who will present on ongoing discussions the CNMI Department of Labor has with U.S. Department of Labor regarding the interim final rules, including job vacancy announcements and recruitment requirements and postings.

■ Glory Gervacio Saure, director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Honolulu Local Office, who will present on the "State of the EEOC," including recent trends, agency updates and strategic priorities.

Gervacio Saure will also present on the "Respectful Workplace" initiative and the agency's perspectives on sexual harassment, #metoo, and workplace culture.

■ Dr. Milton J. Perkins, PhD, SHRM-SCP, SPHR, CPC, vice president of ActOne Government Solutions, who will discuss employee engagement, managing HR risks, and responding to employee complaints.

The conference will be from 8am to 5pm. It is open to the public.

The presentation includes continental breakfast and lunch buffet at the cost of $50 for SHRM members and $60 for non-members.

Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by email at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. ***(PR)***

FINANCE

From Page 1

ecutive director Edward Deleon Guerrero and Finance Secretary David Atalig for confirmation yesterday, but they have yet to respond as of press time.

In response to a *Saipan Tribune* request for comments on the delegation's debt, delegation chair Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) noted that $400,000 of the owed amount, according to the Legislature's fiscal analyst, went to the MV *Luta* shipping company.

The delegation paid Luta Mermaid LLC $400,000 "to finance fuel, lubrication, and the maiden voyage costs from Louisiana to Rota," according to Legislative Delegation Resolution 19-3, the legislation that authorized the delegation's payment to the company.

"…Now that there is a settlement agreement for MV *Luta*'s former owners to pay back the government, this can offset this owed amount," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

"[The] Department of Finance forgot to incorporate [the $400,000] until recently, so that is why the records now show that we owe [$564,032]," he added.

The rundown was a result of Sen. Teresita Santos' (Ind-Rota) letter to the Finance secretary, indicating that they need this information because of a scheduled delegation meeting this Thursday, Aug. 15, in Sinapalo, Rota.

"…Having received a copy of the secretary's letter to the Rota delegation, which indicates a deficit in the amount of $564,032, and in as much as the delegation would like to address pending municipality and department requests, patients monthly allowance, interisland patient and escort stipends, scholarships, etc., and the lack of any financial resources as we speak, the only funding that may be available for appropriation is from the casino license fee, which, pursuant to a public law, $2 million shall be allotted to the first and second senatorial districts on a per annum basis," Santos told *Saipan Tribune*.

That basically meant that Rota and Tinian are supposed to get $2 million each as their share of the $15 million that IPI is supposed to pay each year for its casino license.

"Although, we anticipate to receive the $2 million from the casino license fee on a per annum basis, the delegation can only appropriate the same after receiving fund certification from the secretary of Finance that it is available for appropriation," Santos said in her statement.

IPI

From Page 1

Commission.

Grand Marianas and Imperial Pacific Properties, through counsel Braddock J. Huesman, filed notice yesterday informing the District Court that they are withdrawing their notice that asks the federal court to abstain from handling the case.

Huesman also informed the District Court that they are also withdrawing their motion to return the case to the CNMI Superior Court.

Huesman said his clients now submit to the District Court's jurisdiction.

The subsidiaries earlier argued that the District Court should either return the case to the Superior Court or abstain from exercising its jurisdiction.

Last Thursday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit temporarily prohibited CCC from disclosing IPI's confidential income tax information that is the subject of a legal dispute.

In their order, Ninth Circuit judges A. Wallace Tashima and Milan D. Smith Jr. temporarily stayed or suspended the order of U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona that denied the petition for a preliminary injunction being sought by IPI and its two subsidiaries.

The Ninth Circuit issued the order after IPI filed an emergency motion to ask the appellate court to stay Manglona's order while its appeal is pending.

The Ninth Circuit judges ordered that CCC is temporarily enjoined from disclosing the confidential income tax information that is the subject of dispute between IPI and CCC, pending resolution of the emergency motion.

In a 25-page decision last Aug. 6, Manglona ruled that IPI, Grand Marianas, and Imperial Pacific Properties have not met their burden for a preliminary injunction.

Manglona, however, declined to address at this time the motion to remand IPI's lawsuit against CCC to the Superior Court, as the issues of abstention and supplemental jurisdiction raised in the motion will be further briefed and argued.

IPI and its subsidiaries have asked the federal court to prevent the disclosure of unredacted financial statements because, in their view, those statements contain confidential information protected from disclosure by provisions in the CNMI tax code and the Open Government Act, and by guarantees of privacy in the U.S. and Commonwealth Constitutions.

In order to obtain such protection, IPI filed a petition for preliminary injunction prohibiting CCC from releasing the unredacted financial statements while this case is pending.

IN SEX ABUSE OF A MINOR CASE

Court denies sex offender's bid to exclude child's testimony

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio has denied a sex offender's motion to prevent a child from testifying in a case that accuses him of sexually abusing her in 2018.

Benjamin M. Hattori, 42, had sought to block the testimony of the victim in the alleged sexual abuse of a minor case that took place in November 2018 but Kim-Tenorio denied Hattori's motion, saying it failed to meet the burden of showing evidence that the child's statements were the product of suggestive or coercive interview techniques.

"The court finds that [Hattori] has failed to identify any specific example of unduly suggestive or improper interview techniques in the government's interviews. Furthermore, at 14, the child witness' age weighs heavily against [Hattori's] motion," the order stated.

Although a child's memory is peculiarly susceptible to suggestibility, Kim-Tenorio said that that concern becomes less relevant as the witness' age increases.

Hattori, through assistant public defender Stephanie Boutsicaris, argued that the 14-year-old girl's testimony should be excluded as irrelevant and unreliable because of the child's age and the alleged suggestive and coercive interview techniques that were used to obtain her statements.

"A.P.'s story evolved over the course of three interviews with government officials, none of which were recorded or otherwise adequately documented. The government officials who conducted the interviews were either inexperienced or lacked qualifications in the area of child interview techniques. Both the lack of documentation and lack of qualified experts in the area of child interview techniques demonstrate that the interviews with A.P. were unduly suggestive," Boutsicaris argued.

Boutsicaris added that having the child's family members present during the interviews, conducting the interviews in a non-neutral location, using a questioner who is an authority figure, and repetitively interviewing the child when she was tired are all suggestive interview techniques that had an undue influence on the child's testimony.

Assistant attorney general Samantha Vickery denied this in the Commonwealth's opposition to Hattori's motion. In addition, the Commonwealth argues that the child is competent to testify because a child's competency is not even in question if the child is above the age of 14 when testifying.

"The government's interviews with A.P. were either memorialized in a report, or transcribed and the defendant has already received copies. A.P.'s testimonies were consistent throughout interviews, and the defendant has not indicated any improper or suggestive interview techniques and has failed to identify any specific questions asked as being unduly suggestive or improper," Vickery argued.

Kim-Tenorio also denied Hattori's motion dismiss count II violation of sex offender registry and motion to compel discovery of witness statements to the victim's advocate, but granted Hattori's motion to compel discovery of offender records.

Man accused in several burglaries is arrested, this time for contempt

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who is accused of several burglaries has been arrested again after he allegedly violated the terms of his release.

Martin T. Jr. Castro, 34, who was originally arrested for alleged involvement in three different burglary and theft cases, was arrested again last Wednesday for contempt of court after he reportedly violated the terms on his bail release.

Superior Court Associate Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a bail of $1,000 on Castro and he is now awaiting arraignment at the Department of Corrections.

According to a Department of Public Safety statement yesterday, DPS received a report about a contempt of court violation in Chalan Piao at about 1:56pm last Wednesday. Police then met with the caller, who was Castro's third-party custodian. The caller stated that the court had placed Castro on house arrest, yet Castro had left the house, violating his bail.

Officers immediately notified other units in the area to be on the lookout for Castro. Officers spotted Castro walking south along Beach Road, Chalan Piao, at about 2:35pm. Officers approached Castro and told him that his third-party custodian had called 911, reporting that he had left the residence without his appointed custodian. Castro was immediately arrested and brought to DOC.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Castro was arrested for his alleged involvement in three burglaries back in July—two in Susupe and one in San Antonio.

Castro allegedly broke into a residence in Sunshine Garden, Susupe and stole a cellphone worth $700. He is also the suspect in a theft incident at Mo's Restaurant, Susupe and a theft that occurred in San Antonio on July 24 at a used car lot.

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IT&E

3 vehicles burglarized at CK apartment complex

Police officers were dispatched to Chalan Kanoa last Sunday, Aug. 11, 2019, after the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call at about 9:32am, reporting a burglary incident at the MMC2 apartments.

Officers met the caller at the scene and learned that the victim was about to leave his apartment when he noticed that his driver door was slightly ajar. Upon entering his vehicle, he discovered that his belongings were scattered throughout the front and back seats. The victim told officers that a blue Bluetooth speaker and a black wireless headphone were missing.

At around 10:28am that same day, a second victim went to DPS to make a walk-in complaint about a burglary incident at the MMC2 apartments. Officers learned that the second victim's belongings were scattered throughout the vehicle, and a black-and-silver HP laptop was stolen from his vehicle.

At approximately 10:39am, a male individual approached an officer at the DPS central office stating that his vehicle had been burglarized at the MMC2 apartments. The third victim stated that his belongings were scattered inside his vehicle but nothing was taken as he does not leave things of value in his car overnight.

In separate interviews, all victims mentioned that their vehicles were equipped with alarm systems, and none of them heard any alarms going off the night before.

This case remains open. If you have any information related to these burglary incidents, call 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. ***(PR)***

New Corrections commissioner confirmed, sworn in

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate has confirmed the appointment of Wally Villagomez as the new commissioner of the Department of Corrections

Voting 7-0, the Senate confirmed Villagomez's nomination last Friday morning during a session on Capital Hill.

The nomination, according to Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigation Committee chair Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian), drew no comments opposing the nomination.

Although Villagomez had been with the Corrections Department for only two and a half months, he has over 19 years of experience in the Department of Public Safety Tinian.

When asked later about his priorities at the department, Villagomez said: "[I want to prioritize] trainings for the staff and getting the CNMI Department of Corrections to the level of correctional institutions in the U.S. mainland."

"I would also be going out and checking for federal grants to improve the department," he added.

Saipan Tribune previously reported on some of the issues relating to the living environment of inmates at the prison in Susupe. When asked, Villagomez noted that these are also on his to-do list.

Villagomez

"I am looking actually into all of the issues of the department right now, and I have been working on them day by day," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Villagomez, he used to lead the Correction Department in an acting capacity.

Later in the afternoon, *Saipan Tribune* learned that the Office of the Governor swore Villagomez into office.

"I just want to thank the governor and the lieutenant governor, my family, and staff and management of the Department of Corrections for their support, along with the Tinian senators, Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, and the Tinian Legislative Delegation," he said when asked.

500 Sails takes a trip to Tinian

CONRTIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the 500 Sails group pose for a picture as they are welcomed to Tinian at the Tachonga Beach last July 28. The group held a summer sailing and swimming program on the island, from July 28 to Aug.1.

By MARC VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 500 Sails program completed its trip to Tinian over the last week of July to hold a summer swimming and sailing program from July 29 to Aug. 1 at Tachonga Beach.

The group saw roughly about 60 registered children in grades K-12 and about 40 volunteers during the weeklong program.

500 Sails co-founder Emma Perez found it an "amazing experience."

She said the group left Saipan in the early morning of July 28, bringing with them three sakman or traditional Chamorro sailboats, and they were able to make it to Tinian in a matter of hours.

Perez said the participants were introduced to swimming, sailing, and learning the history of navigating in the Marianas.

"Some of the students had fears of swimming beyond shore but, a couple of hours later, they were swimming and enjoying the time that they've spent learning how to swim," Perez said.

She noted that a couple of participants were able to sail on their own and that was a surprise that they had for 500 Sails, as this was done in the last days of the summer program.

Perez thanked the people of Tinian, the Northern Marianas College and its NMC-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services program, Typhoon Sports, the Public School System, and others who made this summer program a success. She said they want to return to Tinian for another trip sometime soon.

For more information about 500 Sails, visit their website at www.500sails.org and visit their Facebook page (@500Sails).

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com •
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that Board Committees on Financial Affairs, Seaport Facilities and Personnel Affairs will be holding special meetings on Friday, August 16, 2019, beginning 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located in the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan.

AGENDA

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (June 13, 2019)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
  1. Committee Report
IV. New Business:
  1. Ricondo Concession Contract Change Order No. 3
  2. Supplemental Budget Requests:
    a. SIA Master Plan Contract Amendment No. 1
    b. SIA Rotating Beacon
    c. SIA ARFF Training Facility – Professional Services
    d. SIA Loading Bridges A&E Contract – Amendment No. 1
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (June 24, 2019)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
  1. Committee Report
  2. Marianas Waterworks Shipping Company
  3. DLNR – Rota West Harbor Small Boat Marina
  4. Seaport Regulations for Small Boat Operations
  5. Seaport Police Boat
  6. Asia-Pacific Ship Investment, Inc.
IV. New Business:
  1. Tasi Tours Request
  2. Terminal Tariff – Small boat vessels
  3. Echo Dock
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (July 12, 2019)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
  1. Committee Report
  2. Organizational Chart
  3. Physical Fitness Program for Tinian/Rota ARFF/Ports Police
IV. New Business:
  1. Employment Contract – Comptroller
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

Persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. for oral testimony.

Roman T. Tudela
Financial Affairs Committee Chair

Pete P. Reyes
Airport Facilities Committee Chair

Joseph M. Diaz
Personnel Affairs Committee Chair

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Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that the Board Airport Facilities Committee will be holding a special meeting on Thursday, August 15, 2019, beginning 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located in the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (August 8, 2019 – Joint Airport Facilities Meeting and Financial Affairs Meeting)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
  1. Solar Updates
  2. CPA Business Resource Guide
  3. Airport Inspections
  4. Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport RFP Concession
  5. Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport RFP Concession
  6. Star Marianas Air – Accounts Receivables
  7. Pagan Airstrip and Seaport
  8. CUC Water well near Tandem Skydive
  9. Updated Airport Facilities Committee Report
IV. New Business:
  1. Airline Users Agreement
  2. Saipan Airport Master Plan
  3. General Aviation Updates
  4. Professional Services Contract – A&P Pacific Corp. (Saipan ARFF Training Facility Typhoon Repairs)
  5. SIA Master Plan Contract – Amendment No. 1
  6. SIA Loading Bridges A&E Contract – Amendment No. 1
V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

Persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. for oral testimony.

Barrie C. Toves
Airport Facilities Committee Chair

'Forgery suspect entitled to materials used by cops'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has ruled that a defendant in a check forgery case is entitled to get the "tangible materials" used by the police in order for him to cross-examine the government's witness during a preliminary hearing.

In an order on Friday, Camacho said Nelsin Anson Saimon is entitled to any tangible materials that law enforcers had relied on to arrest him, so he could fully exercise his right to cross-examine adverse witnesses at the preliminary examination hearing and to be able to weed out groundless claims against him.

That was why the CNMI Legislature enacted 6 CMC Section 6303(c), Camacho said, to ensure that defendants have a right to cross-examine at a preliminary examination hearing.

Further, the judge said, the CNMI Supreme Court has ruled that the purpose of a preliminary examination hearing is to "weed out groundless claims."

That means Saimon is entitled to the materials that police detective Daniel T. Joab had relied on when he swore out an affidavit of probable cause to support the issuance of an arrest warrant against Saimon, Camacho said.

Specifically, the "tangible materials" are Department of Public Safety police officer Daniel Maliuyaf's notes, Maliuyaf's reports, and the alleged forged check, Camacho said.

According to court records, a Superior Court judge signed an arrest warrant for Saimon on Jan. 26, 2018, based on Joab's affidavit of probable cause.

Saimon allegedly cashed at the LC Market in Gualo Rai a check in the amount of $578 that belonged to Kae Poong (Saipan) Corp. in December 2017. He allegedly told the store's employee that he works for Kae Poong Corp.

Poong Corp., however, has been out of business since 2013.

Last Jan. 27, Joab arrested Saimon on the charges of possession of forged writing on forgery or forgery device, and theft. Saimon was brought to the Superior Court on Jan. 29, for his initial appearance and bail hearing. The court found him indigent and appointed the Office of the Public Defender as his counsel.

The Office of the Attorney General, as counsel for the government, then filed an information charging Saimon with theft and forgery.

On Feb. 5, a preliminary examination hearing was held to determine whether there is probable cause to charge Saimon.

The OAG did not provide the defense with any materials prior to the preliminary examination hearing, including the check that Saimon allegedly cashed, or the video surveillance that allegedly identified Saimon as cashing the check, or any witness statements or police reports.

The prosecution's sole witness was Joab. No exhibits were used and none were entered as evidence at the preliminary examination hearing.

A representative of LC Market in Gualo Rai did not testify. Maliuyaf did not testify either, even though he was the officer who first went to LC Market in December 2017, reviewed the video surveillance, and identified Saimon.

Joab testified that he talked with Maliuyaf and learned about the specifics of the case by reviewing Maliuyaf's notes, Maliuyaf's reports, and the alleged forged check.

Joab also testified that it was Maliuyaf and not Joab who talked with the employee of Kae Poong Corp. about the alleged forged check.

Joab was also not present during the initial contact between Maliuyaf and the store's employee and did not review the video footage.

Saimon, through counsel, then asked for copies of those materials, which the government refused to provide. Defense counsel argued, among other things, that failing to provide the materials is a due process violation.

The court then continued the preliminary examination for the parties to brief the issue.

Saimon is seeking materials on which the prosecution bases its probable cause, and materials which Joab testified he used to refresh his recollection and familiarize himself with the case prior to testifying at the preliminary examination hearing.

Saimon argues that failure to provide the materials constitutes an interference with his right to effective assistance of counsel, interferes with his right to cross-examine witnesses, and violates the due process requirements.

In his ruling, Camacho said that, without the "tangible materials" to fully and properly cross-examine the government's witness on how law enforcers established probable cause for Saimon's arrest, the defense counsel's cross-examination would be reduced to ineffective attempts to guess and speculate.

At the same time, Camacho said, without a full and proper cross-examination at a preliminary examination hearing, the court would not be able to obtain a robust record to rule whether or not there is probable cause that a crime has been committed and Saimon is the person that committed the crime.

The OAG argues, among other things, that Saimon is not entitled to the materials because a preliminary examination hearing does not secure fundamental rights and is not required by either the CNMI or U.S. Constitutions and that due process does not include a right to avoid trial in the absence of probable cause.

Yes, Camacho said, but since Saimon was arrested under a warrant, he does not have a due process right to a preliminary examination hearing. However, Saimon does have such a right under Rule 5.1 of the Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Camacho said a defendant has certain statutory rights at the preliminary examination hearing.

"For example, defendant has a right to cross-examine adverse witnesses at the preliminary examination hearing pursuant to the law," he said. Saimon is therefore entitled to tangible materials, if any, used by law enforcement to establish probable cause.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

COTA closed on Aug. 15

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority advises the public that the Fixed-Route and Demand Response will be closed for professional development on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019. For more information, contact (670) 664-2682. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support group meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support group meeting on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker is John Cole, director of the Crisis Counseling Program at the Commonwealth Health Care Corp..

To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

OVR closed on Aug. 15

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation office will be closed for professional development on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019. For concerns or matters that require immediate attention, call (670) 287-6538. ***(PR)***

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Tools stolen from MRE company van in Gualo Rai

Department of Public Safety officers were dispatched to Gualo Rai last Thursday, Aug. 8, in response to a 911 call that reported a theft incident at Micronesia Renewable Energy. The call was received at about 7:36am.

Police officers arrived at the scene at about 7:47am and met with a Micronesia Renewable Energy employee, who led officers to a company van. The employee stated that, after clocking in for work, they walked over to the van to gather some tools. After the employee opened the van they noticed that several tools appeared to be missing, and called the company manager. After speaking with the company manager, 911 was called.

A neighboring witness stated that they recall seeing a sedan and two different pickup trucks around the area early that morning. The witness does not remember any details of the vehicles, only stating that one truck was clearly the color white, with no idea of the make, model, or trim.

After a quick inventory, items missing from the company van included one red-and-white Milwaukee bandsaw, one red-and-white Milwaukee compact drill, one red-and-white Milwaukee grinder, one drill bit set, one ethernet RJ45 crimper, one Everest claw hammer, one impact drive bit set, one insulated screw driver, one Klein tools linemen's pliers, one Klein tools multi-tester, one long-nose pliers, one socket tool set, two red-and-white Milwaukee battery chargers, two red-and-white Milwaukee Impact drivers, five in-line tap connectors, and six Milwaukee cordless tool batteries.

If you have any information related to this theft incident, call 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. ***(PR)***

Korean students pay a call on Apatang's office

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The forty-seven students representing the Asia Pacific College pose for a picture with Saipan Mayor special assistant Henry Hofschneider, serving under mayor David M. Apatang's stead, last Thursday at the Saipan Mayor's Office. The group was recognized for their efforts of performing a beach cleanup at the Kilili Beach.

MARC A. VENUS

A total of 47 Korean students visited the Saipan Mayor's Office last Thursday and were presented with certificates of appreciation for conducting a cleanup at Kilili Beach.

The group of students are from the Asia Pacific College in Korea and is considered one of the largest groups to visit the CNMI and conduct a beach cleanup.

Henry Hofschneider, the special assistant to Mayor David M. Apatang, did the presentation on behalf of Apatang, thanking the students for visiting Saipan and helping beautify the islands.

The group is led by Wonjun Lee and are accompanied by a handful of guardians.

Hofschneider said he and Apantang hope that the group can return to the CNMI as this opportunity helps create a bond between the people of the CNMI and the visitors from South Korea.

Apatang and his office have been working on creating opportunities to improve the relationship between the CNMI and its tourism markets like Japan and South Korea. A prime example of such opportunities is the ongoing exchange programs that the mayor's office is in charge of. The most recent exchange group to visit the islands is the Sanpoen group; the KSKK Japan group will follow this week.

40 learn how to administer mental health first aid

Some of the participants in the Youth and Adult Mental Health First Aid training last July 23 and 25 pose with their certificates.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Community Guidance Center's System of Care program did another round of Youth and Adult Mental Health First Aid training last July 23 and 25 to several groups, with a total of 40 individuals being certified for MHFA.

That means the participants are now certified to provide initial help to people who may be experiencing depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts or behaviors, non-suicidal self-injuries, substance use, or those who are reacting to a traumatic event.

The training series was conducted by SOC staff Guadalupe Camacho and Kimberly Mendiola, and Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program staff Fred Fatialofa and Mia Jones.

The MHFA training is an eight-hour course that provides participants with tools to identify when someone might be struggling with a mental health or substance use problem and to connect them with appropriate support and resources when necessary. Similar to how cardio-pulmonary training helps individuals gain skills to provide basic medical health assistance during an emergency, MHFA prepares participants to interact with a person experiencing a mental health crisis.

The first aiders learn a five-step action plan that guides them through the process of reaching out and offering appropriate support.

The System of Care program offers trainings for two curricula: Youth MHFA and Adult MHFA. Youth MHFA is designed to help adolescents aged 12-18 years old, while the Adult MHFA is designed to help those above the age of 18.

In just 10 years, mental health first aid has become a full-blown movement in the United States—more than 1 million people are certified mental health first aiders, and that number is growing every day.

Those that attended the training were staff of Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc.; Living Hope Church; CHCC Maternal and Child Health Bureau; CHCC Psychiatric Unit; Commonwealth Cancer Association; Substance Abuse, Addictions, and Rehabilitation Program; CNMI Drug Court; Northern Marianas Sports Association; Saipan World Resort; Public School System; Northern Marianas College; *Marianas Variety*; and other community members.

For agencies or individuals interested in receiving MHFA certifications or for more information on MHFA, contact the System of Care office in San Antonio at (670)664-4604.

The Community Guidance Center System of Care Program is funded in part by a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information about Commonwealth Health Care Corp. programs, follow it on Facebook and Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out its website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call (670) 234-8950. ***(PR)***

House OKs bill that allows use of net mesh to fish for *atulai*

From left, Edwin Basto, Rita Olopai, Gregoria Somol, and Child Care Licensing Program supervisor Gordon Salas.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CCLP staff complete writing course for licensing

Employees of the Child Care Licensing Program have completed the National Association for Regulatory Administration's Professional Writing Course for Licensing.

CCLP supervisor Gordon Salas, along with members of his staff—Rita Olopai, Gregoria Somol, and Edwin Basto—have taken the NARA online Professional Writing Course for Licensing with each scoring well over 90%.

CCLP is a division of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and regulated child care services companies in the CNMI. Each and every CCLP staff member must be well versed from drafting an email to the more complex report writing, as some of these writings might end up being discoverable materials in a court of law or in administrative hearings.

As a result, NARA has specifically created the professional writing course in the field of human care. The course taught CCLP's staff members to critique their writing skills as well as that of their peers; the writing process; the nuts and bolts of style and grammar; and overall improve their writing for human care documentation. They each had to take and pass an exam composed of eight specific chapters in order to obtain their certificate of achievement. The examination was administered by the Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine, as approved by NARA.

To learn more about CCLP, call 664-2572. ***(PR)***

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed a bill Friday that would allow the use of a net mesh, or surround nets, for catching *atulai* during their seasonal runs through the CNMI.

Rep. Roman Benavente's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-30 HD1 would allow the use of surround nets with a mesh no smaller than 1.5 inches when stretched only for catching the bigeye scad fish, locally known as *atulai*, during their seasonal run through the CNMI.

The legislation passed the House on a vote of 12-5. It now goes to the Senate for action.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) voted against the legislation, which she referred to as a "short-term thinking" bill.

"I first want to note that the only comments submitted for the record came from the [Office of the Attorney General], and that the recommendations of the [OAG] were not incorporated into the legislation. I respectfully ask that the author of the bill include the [OAG] recommendations," Sablan said.

Saipan Tribune was unable to obtain a copy of the OAG's recommendations but, according to Sablan, it referred to clarifying the use of surround nets only for the seasonal run of *atulais*.

Sablan noted that the OAG found the assessment of a minimum fee of $5 for "…all other participants of the fishing venture" as "problematic."

"I continue to be troubled by the lack of engagement from the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife," she noted.

Sablan pointed out that DFW director Manny Pangelinan reportedly told her that his office was not approached to comment on the bill. Sablan characterized allowing the use of the net as an "abuse" of the sea, which she finds "unsavory."

The session was recessed to solicit last-minute comments from Pangelinan, whose comments were recorded for the session.

Responding to Sablan, the bill's author, Benavente, noted that he was a fisherman and that he has worked with DFW for "the longest time."

"Bigeye scad is a migratory species—it lives outside in the deeper water. It is not stationary within the lagoon area; this type of fish only comes into the CNMI during its seasonal runs and sometimes…you won't see it at all for a period of five years," he said.

Benavente further noted that net fishing is legal for catching certain types of fish on Saipan, and that it is heavily monitored.

"They monitor…the amount of catch per day and the size limit of their catch. So if you are worrying about this type of activity, it will be monitored," he told Sablan.

After Benavente's comments, Sablan proposed to return the bill to the committee for further review. The motion was ultimately defeated with a vote of 6-10.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-012, Rev. 1

ISLAND WIDE WATER METER INSTALLATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of the installation of new service saddles, corporation stops, and PVC service lines from the CUC main to the meter, proper sizing of existing service lines, installation of a water meter on non-metered customers, relocation of existing CUC water meters from private property to public easement, various exploration work, abandonment of unnecessary service lines, removal of existing manifold systems, and as required, installation of new service lines from the meter to the house plumbing.

The Bid Package may be picked-up, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) on an electronic disk file; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 1, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-012, Rev.1, Island Wide Water Meter Installation, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **9:00 AM (ChST) on August 16, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 2, 2019 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-028

REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi Clarifier Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and replacement or repair of the effluent launder box; removal of the old circular clarifier mechanism and sections of the effluent launder box; replacement of the RFP weirs and scum baffle, installation of a new outer scum baffle; installation of new area lighting, wires, and conduit, and disconnect boxes; installation of a new process water spray system for foam control. The work shall include the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier; routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period; and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on August 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-028, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) September 6, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Culture created El Paso shooter. It will continue after Trump is gone

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. *Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.*

FORT WORTH, Texas—After last weekend's tragic mass shooting in El Paso, Roman Catholic Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio lashed out at President Donald Trump.

In a series of now-deleted tweets, he called Trump "a very poor man" and urged him to "stop hate and racism, starting with yourself."

His response was emotional; the senseless killings first in El Paso and then in Dayton, Ohio, have left many people in a state of confusion and anger.

But another screed squarely blaming Trump for last weekend's attacks is the last thing Americans need right now, especially from a religious leader.

Hurling such accusations, however founded they may be, fuels hatred at a time when emotions are extremely high.

And it allows all of us to shirk responsibility in contributing to the culture and environment that has made these kinds of mass shootings not only possible but increasingly common: a culture of narcissism, nihilism and death.

Another Catholic leader, Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia—who, not coincidentally, presided over the funerals of several victims of the Columbine massacre 20 years ago—described it this way: "The people using the guns in these loathsome incidents are moral agents with twisted hearts. And the twisting is done by the culture of sexual anarchy, personal excess, political hatreds, intellectual dishonesty, and perverted freedoms that we've systematically created over the past half-century."

That's a hard truth to swallow, and one that plenty of people will disagree with, because it doesn't allow for easy answers and patchwork policy solutions—ban "assault weapons," fix mental healthcare, impeach Trump—as if these things alone (or even in combination) will provide the immediate and permanent solutions our broken world demands.

And it makes us all complicit—if not active participants—in what The New York Times' Ross Douthat describes as "our late-modern anti-culture, our internet-accelerated dissolution of normal human bonds."

Indeed, it's true that some people bear more responsibility than others in fomenting our current environment. Political leaders, with their bully pulpits and millions of Twitter followers, have a greater obligation than you or I to police our words and actions.

The duty to show restraint begins at the top—Trump gets no absolution here—but its frequent absence in the president is not an invitation for other public figures, or even ourselves, to follow suit.

Yet we accept it, even champion it, when it fulfills our own personal or political prejudices.

Consider that not one of Trump's Democratic political challengers has resisted the opportunity to use the president's real or imagined role the tragedy as a means to raise money and score political points.

See CULTURE on Next Page

The lessons of Toni Morrison: Words matter, now more than ever

By MARY C. CURTIS
CQ-Roll Call

Mary C. Curtis has worked at The New York Times, The Baltimore Sun, The Charlotte Observer, as national correspondent for Politics Daily, and is a senior facilitator with The OpEd Project. Follow her on Twitter @mcurtisnc3.

"Language alone protects us from the scariness of things with no names."

Of course, that language from Toni Morrison perfectly suits this time, when the names we give the things that scare us hardly seem enough.

It is fitting that in a week when America has been exposed to the words of a white nationalist screed shared before a man filled with hate murdered 22 human beings in El Paso, Texas, we can find some comfort in Morrison's life and legacy, and in the power of words used masterfully by the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Morrison gave hope and encouragement to so many writers who saw her center black life and history—the pain and love and everything in between—in literature, and forced everyone to pay attention.

Her words were, and are, an inspiration, especially to those, like me, who saw the possibilities of a life of writing that validated experiences many Americans viewed as an afterthought or beside the point. We try to match her example of expression without compromise, though we might never come close to her genius. With her death at 88, announced this week, the world lost a giant when so many of our leaders are so small.

It came during a week spent pushing back at the reluctance to name a president's racism—revealed in words, spoken on Twitter and at rallies, which so closely resemble the "manifesto" of the man who announced his intentions to slaughter Mexican Americans before he traveled with the intention of causing havoc in an American city known for its peacefulness and tolerance.

It's been a week of a grudging realization by some of the importance of speaking precisely and strongly, naming domestic terrorism for what it is, for what our country's intelligence services have been saying it has been for years. White supremacists have not been timid about excreting their twisted ideology as they bond over conspiracy theories on the internet and, increasingly, in the open. They pose a dangerous threat to what America is supposed to be, more serious in our time than the foreign intruders Americans have been taught to fear.

In her words, Morrison asked those who cling to these myths of superiority to look to themselves: "What are you without racism? Are you any good? Are you still strong? Still smart? Do you still like yourself? ... If you can only be tall because someone's on their knees, then you have a serious problem."

The woman who said she has always refused to be a victim called out racism for what it is: "The very serious function of racism ... is distraction. It keeps you from doing your work. It keeps you explaining, over and over again, your reason for being. Somebody says you have no language and so you spend 20 years proving that you do. Somebody says your head isn't shaped properly so you have scientists working on the fact that it is. Somebody says that you have no art so you dredge that up. Somebody says that you have no kingdoms and so you dredge that up. None of that is necessary."

"There will always be one more thing."

When I had my Morrison moment years ago, asked to introduce her when she gave a speech in Charlotte, North Carolina, no amount of preparation and practice could keep my knees from knocking when the evening came, when I quoted lines from "Beloved," the novel I return to. She was gracious, lovely, thoughtful—and generous, not only to me but to the throng of students who sat at her feet during a reception at the home of the president of the university that sponsored her visit.

Morrison's death was a shock, not just because it was so sudden but also because you had thought she would live forever. Her words and wisdom will, as will her example of speaking the truth out loud and without apology.

I'm not surprised that the current president has yet to weigh in on Morrison's passing. After Donald Trump was elected, she wrote in The New Yorker: "So scary are the consequences of a collapse of white privilege that many Americans have flocked to a political platform that supports and translates violence against the defenseless as strength. These people are not so much angry as terrified, with the kind of terror that makes knees tremble."

Trump has chosen instead to again return to criticizing his White House predecessor, as well as those who would question the sincerity of his reaction to a week of carnage in our America, in El Paso, Dayton, Ohio, Gilroy, California, and cities whose names don't make the headlines.

That predecessor, President Barack Obama—who in 2015 traveled to Charleston, South Carolina, to comfort the family, the city and the nation at the funeral of the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, one of those murdered by a white racist at Mother Emanuel AME Church—awarded Morrison the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

At the 2012 ceremony, Obama said: "Toni Morrison's prose brings us that kind of moral and emotional intensity that few writers ever attempt. From 'Song of Solomon' to 'Beloved,' Toni reaches us deeply, using a tone that is lyrical, precise, distinct, and inclusive. She believes that language 'arcs toward the place where meaning might lie.' The rest of us are lucky to be following along for the ride."

This week, Obama mourned her as a "national treasure." He said in a statement: "Her writing was not just beautiful but meaningful—a challenge to our conscience and a call to greater empathy."

Empathy is an emotion Trump must try to conjure as he struggles to provide moral leadership to a nation that is hurting, where some citizens hang on his every word and others ignore the scripted teleprompter statements and see in his tweets and off-the-

See LESSONS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, village address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tinian Peace Ceremony on the 75th anniversary of bombing of Nagasaki

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Last Friday Aug. 9, 2019, on the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki from Tinian island, a peace ceremony was held in San Jose village on Tinian in the Gandhi-King-Ikeda Peace Garden. There were remarks by Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, Councilman Patrick Manglona, and historic commentary by Miho Evangelista, a member of the Tinian Japanese community. There was a presentation of flower wreaths, the sounding of the Sirens of Peace, a moment of silence, and Tinian leadership tree planting. I wrote and read two sonnets for the occasion based on the writings of Daisaku Ikeda:

Goodness in One's Self and Others

"The key to the flowering of humanity, of which Buddhism speaks, is steadfast belief in people's goodness and dedication to cultivating this goodness in one's self and others."
—Daisaku Ikeda, born 1928

These wise words by Ikeda, Daisaku
may remind us of the frog jumping in the water
the frog jumps into the water in a famous haiku
bringing reality to father, mother, son, and daughter

The frog is gone but ripples from his dive remain
ever widening across the water of the old pond
like goodness in others Dr. Ikeda tries to explain
ripples grow respect for humanity like a magic wand

We saw the frog sitting and then it quickly jumped in
we heard the splash and in an instant the frog was gone
belief in others goodness is a sure place we can begin
dedication to growing it in self and others begins at dawn

A peaceful way we can diminish wars and insanity
cultivating the flowering of goodness in humanity.

Bonds of Trust and Friendship

"In the end, peace will not be realized by politicians signing treaties. True and lasting peace will only be realized by forging life-to-life 'bonds of trust and friendship' among the world's people. Human solidarity is built by opening our hearts to each other. This is the power of dialogue."
—Daisaku Ikeda

In dialogue we talk frequently of bonds of trust
and their connection with bonds of friendship
in any relationship both are an absolute must
for lasting peace as we go through life's trip

We must find among all peoples around the world
a respect for and absolute need for human solidarity
regardless language spoken or under what flag unfurled
respect sought for and worked towards with absolute clarity

It begins with Ikeda's "opening our hearts to each other"
not with a focus on self like in Hamlet's monologue
but a focus on every man, woman, sister, and brother
that my friends is Ikeda's " power of dialogue".

Ikeda's 2018 peace proposal was "Toward an Era of
Human Rights – Building a People's Movement"
with your recognition of and respect for the dignity
of others on a daily basis you will make improvement."

How to read a contract

Understanding the 5 essential elements of every agreement

By JORDAN SUNDELL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business and real-estate law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate and small business—are published every other Tuesday. jsundell@jzgroupinc.com.

What do Amelia, Brad, and Chloe have in common?

Amelia wanted to fly across the ocean. But she didn't have money to buy a plane. So she went to the bank and asked for a loan. When the bank said yes, Emily and the bank signed a loan agreement.

Brad decided to start a podcast. Eventually it became so popular that companies approached him about plugging their products and airing advertisements. To cement these arrangements, Brad and the companies signed marketing agreements.

Chloe wanted a job as a sales manager. She networked, sent out résumés, and finally landed a job. When she did, Chloe and her employer signed an employment contract.

While Amelia, Brad, and Chloe were looking for very different things, they all had one thing in common: They needed to sign a contract as part of bringing their goal to life.

These examples underscore a modern reality: Contracts are everywhere. Each of us will need to read, understand, and ultimately understand at least one contract in our lifetime. And, for most of us, that number will be significantly higher. Thus, it's worth knowing how contracts are structured.

Well-drafted contracts are generally broken into five sections: the preamble, background, business terms, boilerplate, and signature block. Let's discuss each.

First up is the preamble, which is the start of the contract. Its job is to announce the date, people, and type of contract that will follow. It will look something like this:

> *This Rental Agreement (the "Lease"), dated 13 August 2018, is between John Smith (the "Landlord"), and Excelsior Construction, LLC (the "Tenant").*

Sometimes the preamble also includes the parties' contact information. Other times that information is included in a notice clause later in the contract. Either approach is fine. But contact information should almost always be somewhere in the contract.

Immediately after the preamble comes the background section (often known as the recitals). This section often yields a reader's first encounter with what lawyers call legalese—archaic language like "whereas" and "witnesseth that." While these archaisms are unnecessary, the background section can be very helpful, especially for complicated contracts. The background section does exactly what its name suggests—it says why the parties signed the contract. It should look something like this:

Background

- *The Seller manufactures hammocks (the "Goods");*
- *The Retailer markets and sells hammocks and related products; and*
- *The parties desire for the Seller to sell the Goods to the Retailer, all on the terms below.*

Next up is the meat of the contract—the business terms. This section is what the parties care about. For example, in a rental agreement, this section will set out the length of the agreement, how much rent is due and when, and so on. This section will often start like this:

Agreement

The parties therefore agree as follows:

- *Term. This agreement is for 1 year, from 1 August 2019 through 31 July 2020.*
- *Rent. The Tenant shall pay the Landlord US$1,000, payable in advance on the 1st of each month.*
- *Security Deposit. The Tenant shall pay the Landlord a security deposit in the amount of US$1,000, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.*
- *Utilities. The Tenant shall be responsible for its utilities, including power and water.*

After the business terms is the legal boilerplate, which contains a series of general terms found in virtually every contract. This section is about the point where most reader's eyes begin to glaze over. But try to resist that impulse because within that sea of legal verbiage are some essential terms that can make or break the contract.

What are some of the key terms to keep an eye out for? Scan for the Notice clause, which says how you should contact the other party. That information is especially important if a dispute arises. Similarly, pay attention for any clause that says something like: Arbitration, Mediation, Choice of Law, Dispute Resolution, and Waiver of Jury Trial. Each of these will say how disputes will be handled. And if you think you might want to transfer your contractual benefit or obligations (such as a tenant who wants to transfer their lease to someone else), then look for a section usually titled Assignment.

Last is the signature block. This is the spot where the parties sign. It should say each party's name and whether they are signing on their own behalf or for someone else. In addition, if the parties want to be especially careful or intend for the document to be recorded (such as a deed of gift, warranty deed, or ground lease), then the contract should be notarized. The notarization, in turn, would go in a section titled Acknowledgment(s).

If you've read this far, good job. You now know more than most people about contracts. But since people generally don't bother with a contract unless the topic is important, I'd caution against relying too strongly on your newfound knowledge. Instead, invest in having a professional review the contract with you.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

LESSONS

From Page 10

cuff rally rants an emptiness at the core of a very angry man.

But even though he is at this moment missing what America needs, there is Toni Morrison lighting a path forward: "This is precisely the time when artists go to work. There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal."

CULTURE

From Page 10

The brother (and also the campaign chairman) of Democratic presidential candidate Julian Castro went so far as to tweet the names and employers of people in his district who had donated the legal maximum to Trump's re-election campaign. It appears to be an effort to link them to the El Paso shooting—and let's be honest, to generate harassment of and potentially other hardships for them.

That sounds like something Trump and his minions would do: reduce people to the lowest common denominator. Ally or enemy. Criminal or "very fine" person. Convenience or inconvenience.

That sounds like a world, as Chaput writes, that "markets violence," promotes "selfishness and greed," and enshrines "certain kinds of killing" in law.

In that sense, Trump isn't the cause of the "dark psychic force of the collectivized hatred" as Democratic presidential candidate Marianne Williamson would have it. That force has been building for decades on social media, in Washington, in the troubled minds of disaffected people all over the country.

Trump is just its current champion, its low-hanging fruit.

The world the cultivated the El Paso and Dayton, and Gilroy and Tree of Life and Charleston shooters existed before Trump.

Immediately removing Trump from the equation wouldn't stop it or even slow it down.

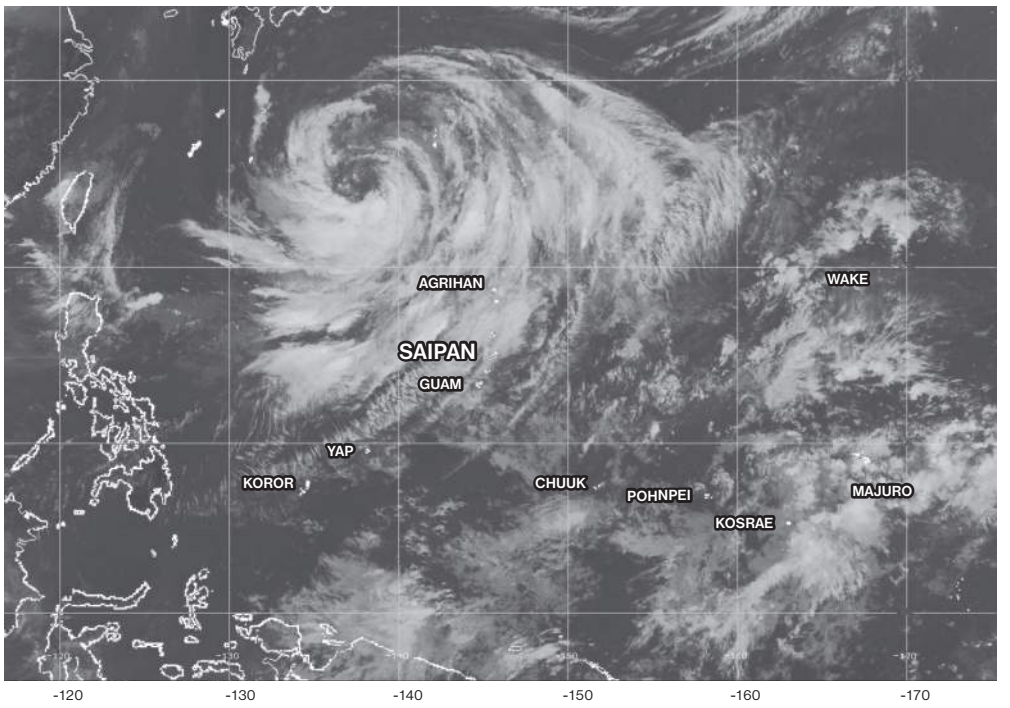
And without profound cultural transformation that revolutionizes the way we perceive and treat every human being—from birth to natural death—it will continue to flourish after he is a distant, ugly memory.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
89° 78°	89° 79°	89° 79°	88° 78°	88° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:42 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Breezy south to southwest winds and just a few showers this morning. Partly sunny skies prevail over the area with high clouds drifting over the Marianas from thunderstorms well north of Saipan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Windy	57° / 48°
Beijing	Showers	90° / 68°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	89° / 76°
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
New York	Mostly Sunny	84° / 71°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	95° / 84°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	99° / 72°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	96° / 76°
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 53°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	97° / 79°
Tokyo	Showers	88° / 81°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	91° / 75°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:33 AM	LOW TIDE	1.30
5:21 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.86
12:43 PM	LOW TIDE	0.01
7:49 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.88

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:41 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:49 AM	5:08 PM
Wednesday	-	4:41 AM	5:54 PM
Thursday	-	5:32 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	-	6:21 AM	7:19 PM
Saturday	-	7:10 AM	7:57 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 9, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

BC802	16:45pm	19:30pm	Daily from Aug 9 to 14

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

BC801	10:00am	14:40pm	Daily from Aug 9 to 14

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

DFS T Galleria unveils virtual makeover app

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

DFS T Galleria has just made shopping for beauty products easier with the launch of its Meitu Magic Mirror, an app that gives you a customized virtual makeover.

Guests and customers crowded the special zone that offers Meitu Magic Mirror during DFS T Galleria's unveiling of its annual First Class Beauty event last Friday. Using the Meitu Magic Mirror, customers and guests just need to click buttons indicating their preferred shade for their eyes, lips, and cheeks. As an added feature, they also get to choose their sunglasses. Undecided with many options? Let the app choose for you by clicking the recommendation button.

"This is a great. You get to see which product is good for you without even trying to put it on," said 2019 Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto, one of the guests at the launching. "This is very helpful to me, to the people who consider makeup as part of their everyday life."

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
2019 Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto tries the Meitu Magic Mirror app during the DFS T Galleria's unveiling of its annual First Class Beauty event last Friday.

DFS T Galleria Saipan assistant general manager for Sales Svetlana Hunter said the app would be available for the whole month of August. Using the app, photos of the customers with their virtual makeover will be taken and they could get a copy with the summary of the products they tried, the brand, and cost.

"Every month, we will have different activations of the special zone, allowing us to bring in the trending brands available at our beauty store," Hunter said.

Marie Alvarez, who came to the launching with her family members, was in awe with how the app made shopping easier.

"It's awesome that we get to enjoy this kind of technology. No need to go around the store and keep trying the products on, removing one after another. With this app, you come here, face the Magic Mirror, and if you like what you saw, then buy the products," Alvarez said.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Sárka Glajchevá checks on the Armani Cinema Saipan makeover booth.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Former Miss Marianas Jian Joyner and her friends pose for a photo after trying on the features of the Meitu Magic Mirror.

Customers who opted to experience "the real thing" got what they wanted, as DFS T Galleria Saipan also had the "Armani Beauty Pop Up" zone last Friday. DFS flew in four professional makeup artists from South Korea to give customers the trendiest makeovers. The booth has the "Armani Cinema" theme, so customers, whether they went through makeovers or not, had their "movie poster" taken and they received printed copies as souvenirs for free.

"This year, we want our customers, through the support of Armani, to experience what it's like to work with the professionals in this movie theme setting. We are pleased to see our customers enjoying the booth. As for our Meitu Magic Mirror, we also have similar one last year, but this time we made added features because people are getting tech savvy," DFS Saipan general manager Billy Cheung said.

When asked if the Magic Mirror will be featured in the store for an extended period, Cheung said it will depend on the customers' response with the promotion. He added that together with the unveiling of T Galleria's newly renovated beauty hall, they also introduced 14 new brands, bringing the store's total to more than 70 brands.

"We listen to our customers. As much as possible, we want to offer them with international beauty brands that they would want to buy and ones that they would find in other DFS flagship stores," Cheung said.

US-China trade war leaves Europe as collateral damage

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Like a sleek Mercedes crunched between two freight trucks, Europe's economy is being knocked off course by the conflict between the U.S. and China over trade.

The bill for damages from the U.S-China collision could be painfully high, starting this week if new growth figures on Wednesday show that Europe's economic motor, Germany, is stalled or shrinking. Beyond that, economists say there are signs that years of jobs growth since the depths of the Great Recession and the eurozone debt crisis may be ending.

And if the trade wars escalate to include higher U.S. tariffs on cars made in Europe, the picture could look even worse.

The heart of the matter is Germany, Europe's largest economy and a key trade partner of both the U.S. and China.

Almost half the German economy - 47%, according to World Bank estimates - comes from trade as its companies play a dominant role in global markets for luxury autos and complex industrial machinery. Supply chains from Germany extend into neighboring countries as well, while German profits are often invested in factories in places like Slovakia, Hungary and Poland. Great for Germany and Europe when trade is booming — but it means Germany remains more vulnerable than less open economies such as Portugal or France to a slowdown in global trade in goods and services.

And that is what's happening.

German has spewed wretched economic data for weeks: an 8% annual fall in exports in June, a 1.5% drop in industrial production in June from the month before, three times bigger than expected. Surveys of company executives suggest the industrial sector is in recession, with consumer demand and services propping up the economy.

But the damage from trade may be spreading to consumers and companies that do business only at home. While unemployment remains low at 3.1%, job gains have stalled recently.

Democratic hopefuls take aim at insurer and pharma profits

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Bernie Sanders and other progressives seeking the Democratic presidential nomination are zeroing in on pharmaceutical and insurer profits, money they say would be better spent providing health care for everyone under "Medicare for All."

Their idea: Health care dollars from government programs, employers and families that are going into the pockets of investors instead could be used to pay for services. If people want a health care system that will not bankrupt them, "the answer is to get rid of the profiteering of the drug companies and the insurance companies (and) move to Medicare for All," Sanders said during the recent Democratic debates.

But research by The Associated Press suggests those dollars might not go so far. While there's no single ledger for drugmakers and insurers, the AP found major companies had about $97 billion in profits last year. That wouldn't even cover a couple of weeks in a health care system that costs $3.6 trillion a year.

"My view is that we are having a debate in fantasy world," said Marc Goldwein, senior policy director with the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. "Insurer profits and excess drug costs are large in dollar terms but small relative to the size of national health expenditures."

To be sure, Sanders and other Medicare for All advocates also acknowledge the need to raise taxes to pay for the plan. It would offer comprehensive medical care to every U.S. resident with no premiums or deductibles, and virtually no copays.

But Sanders' legislation does not specify new revenues . Instead, the Vermont independent provides a separate list of "options" that include higher taxes on the wealthy, corporations and employers while promising the middle class will be better off.

In a statement, Sanders' office said he believes that "guaranteeing health care for all Americans as a right requires ending the profit motive of the insurance industry."

It added that Sanders "sees a role for pharmaceutical innovation, but opposes a rigged system that allows corporations to use their monopoly power to charge Americans ... more for the exact same lifesaving drugs that can be purchased in Canada, the UK, France, Japan, and Germany."

Nation

‘Let our voices be heard’: March against immigration raids

CANTON, Miss. (AP)—The children of Sacred Heart Catholic Church streamed out into Mississippi’s heat on a blistering Sunday afternoon, carrying what they said was a message of opposition against immigration raids their parents could not.

“I will not sit in silence while my parents are taken away,” read a sign carried by two Hispanic boys. They were among a group of several dozen marchers who set out on foot from the church to the town square in Canton to protest the 680 migrant arrests at seven poultry plants in Mississippi last Wednesday.

“Imagine coming home and not finding your parents,” said Dulce Basurto-Arce, an 18-year-old community college student, describing how parents of friends were arrested. “We are marching so no other kid has to go through what we went through. Let our voices be heard!”

Basurto-Arce spoke from the steps of the same courthouse in Canton where Martin Luther King Jr. once rallied protesters against segregation in a 1966 “March Against Fear” across Mississippi.

Churches were the backbone of the civil rights movement. Today, as President Donald Trump and Republican allies continue to defend the raids, churches have emerged as the top sources of spiritual and material support to the mostly Mexican and Guatemalan workers targeted by the raids.

Some churches are going beyond comfort and material aid, with their response flaring into political opposition. The state’s Catholic, Episcopal, United Methodist and Evangelical Lutheran bishops denounced the raids in a joint statement Friday.

The bishops said they would aid the immigrant families, saying there is “an urgent and critical need at this time to avoid a worsening crisis.”

“We are called ... to speak the truth. And the truth is, this is not right,” said Bishop Brian Seage of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, speaking at a news conference one day after the raids.

On Sunday, Trump administration officials defended their actions, amid emotional pleas from children to let their parents go.

Acting Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Mark Morgan acknowledged that one video of an 11-year-old sobbing was “emotional” but said the girl was quickly reunited with her mother.

“I understand that the girl is upset. And I get that,” Morgan said on CNN. “But her father committed a crime.”

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan acknowledged that the timing of the raids was “unfortunate,” coming hours before Trump visited El Paso, Texas, where a man who told authorities he was targeting Mexicans killed 22 people on Aug. 3. But McAleenan told NBC the operation had been planned for more than a year.

Hours after the officials’ televised appearances, more than 250 people filled Sacred Heart to overflowing. A few were white people there to show support, but most were Hispanic congregants who normally attend the weekly Spanish-language Mass.

Deacon Cesar Sanchez, who is originally from Mexico’s Michoacan state and is studying to be a priest in the Jackson diocese, gave a homily in Spanish in which he spoke of Jesus also being an immigrant and a refugee. He said the church is a pilgrim church and that “God is with his people.”

The Canton church has emerged as a hub of the community’s response to the raid. Its pastor, the Rev. Mike O’Brien, stood with parishioners until 4 a.m. Thursday outside the Peco Foods plant in Canton, awaiting those freed from custody that night. O’Brien said he drove several people home who had hidden from federal agents inside the plant and emerged late at night.

Those arrested and released can’t work legally and their families may face one last paycheck as income dries up. Immigration court dates may not be until 2020 because of a deep backlog. Those who face court proceedings must also pay for their own lawyers or go without, and may have court dates at locations hundreds of miles away.

“What are their children going to eat?” the Rev. Jason Coker, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Mississippi, asked last week.

AP

Children of mainly Latino immigrant parents hold signs in support of them and those individuals picked up during an immigration raid at a food processing plant in Canton, Miss., following a Spanish Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Canton, Miss., Sunday, Aug. 11, 2019.

Autopsy of Epstein performed, but details yet to be released

NEW YORK (AP)—The details of how Jeffrey Epstein died in his Manhattan jail cell over the weekend have yet to be released, but medical officials have performed an autopsy on the high-profile inmate accused of sexually abusing underage girls and paying them hundreds of dollars in cash for massages.

Epstein’s abrupt death Saturday cut short a criminal prosecution that could have pulled back the curtain on the inner workings of a high-flying financier with connections to celebrities and presidents, though prosecutors have vowed to continue investigating.

Epstein, 66, had been denied bail and faced up to 45 years behind bars on federal sex trafficking and conspiracy charges unsealed last month. He had pleaded not guilty and was awaiting trial.

The manner in which he died remains a mystery, but guards on Epstein’s unit were working extreme overtime shifts to make up for staffing shortages the morning of his apparent suicide, a person familiar with the jail’s operations told The Associated Press.

The person said that the Metropolitan Correctional Center’s Special Housing Unit was staffed with one guard working a fifth-straight day of overtime and another who was working mandatory overtime. The person wasn’t authorized to discuss jail operations publicly and spoke Sunday on the condition of anonymity.

Epstein had been placed on suicide watch after he was found a little over two weeks ago with bruising on his neck, according to the person familiar with the matter. But he was taken off the watch at the end of July and therefore wasn’t on it at the time of his death, the person said.

Epstein’s removal from suicide watch would have been approved by both the warden of the jail and the facility’s chief psychologist, said Jack Donson, a former prison official who worked for the Bureau of Prisons for more than two decades.

Last week, more than 2,000 pages of documents were released, related to a since-settled lawsuit against Epstein’s ex-girlfriend by Virginia Giuffre, one of Epstein’s accusers. The records contain graphic allegations against Epstein, as well as the transcript of a 2016 deposition of Epstein in which he repeatedly refused to answer questions to avoid incriminating himself.

Epstein’s July 6 arrest drew national attention, particularly focusing on a deal that allowed him to plead guilty in 2008 to soliciting a minor for prostitution in Florida and avoid more serious federal charges.

His lawyers maintained that the new charges in New York were covered by the 2008 plea deal and that Epstein hadn’t had any illicit contact with underage girls since serving his 13-month sentence in Florida.

The federal investigation into the allegations remains ongoing, U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman said. He noted in a statement Saturday that the indictment against Epstein includes a conspiracy charge, suggesting others could face charges in the case.

Mass shootings have Latinos worried about being targets

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—When Michelle Otero arrived at an art show featuring Mexican-American women, the first thing she did was scan the room. Two exits. One security guard.

Then she thought to herself: If a shooter bursts in, how do my husband and I get out of here alive?

Otero, who is Mexican-American and Albuquerque’s poet laureate, had questioned even attending the crowded event at the National Hispanic Cultural Center a day after 22 people were killed in a shooting at an El Paso, Texas, Walmart.

That shooting and an earlier one in Gilroy, California, killed nearly two dozen Latinos. The violence has some Hispanics looking over their shoulders, avoiding speaking Spanish in public and seeking out escape routes amid fears they could be next.

A huge immigration raid of Mississippi poultry plants last week that rounded up 680 mostly Latino workers, leaving behind crying children searching for their detained parents, also has unnerved the Hispanic community.

The events come against the backdrop of racially charged episodes that include then-candidate Donald Trump referring to Mexican immigrants as “rapists,” Trump, as president, referring to migrants coming to the U.S. as “an invasion” and viral videos of white people chastising Hispanics for speaking Spanish in public.

“It’s almost like we’re hitting a climax of some kind,” said Jennifer Garcia, a 23-year-old University of New Mexico student originally from Mexico. “Some people, especially our elders, don’t even want to leave the house or speak Spanish.”

From Houston to Los Angeles, Latinos have taken to social media to describe being on edge, worrying that even standing in line for a Taco Tuesday special outside a food truck or wearing a Mexican national soccer team jersey might make them a target.

Although the motive in the Gilroy shooting is unknown, authorities say the El Paso shooting suspect, who is white, confessed to targeting people of Mexican descent. The suspect also is believed to have written an anti-Hispanic rant before gunning down mostly Latino Walmart shoppers with an AK-47-style rifle. The attack has rattled a city that has helped shape Mexican-American life in the U.S. for generations.

The manifesto included anti-immigrant and anti-Latino language similar to Trump’s.

Asia

Tear gas fired in Hong Kong with no end in sight to protests

HONG KONG (AP)—Police fired tear gas Sunday inside a train station and in several other Hong Kong neighborhoods where protesters occupied roads in another weekend of anti-government demonstrations.

Protesters hurled bricks at officers and ignored warnings to leave before tear gas was deployed in the Sham Shui Po area, police said, calling a march there an "unauthorized assembly." Nearby, protesters wearing gas masks gathered outside a police station in Cheung Sha Wan, as officers wearing their own protective gear looked down at them from a tall wall around the station.

Tear gas was also deployed in central Hong Kong on both sides of Victoria Harbour, in the Tsim Sha Tsui area on the Kowloon side and in Wan Chai on Hong Kong Island. At one point protesters blocked the entrance to a plaza to prevent police from entering. At Tsim Sha Tsui police station, authorities said, one officer was taken to the hospital after he sustained burns on his legs from a petrol bomb thrown by a protester.

A train station in Kwai Fong filled with smoke after about a dozen police officers fired tear gas inside. It was not clear how many protesters were inside the station at the time, but it has been rare for officers to fire tear gas indoors.

Riot police fire tear gas during the anti-extradition bill protest in Hong Kong, Sunday, Aug. 11, 2019. AP

Earlier, a large group of mostly young protesters marched down the middle of Hennessey Road, a main shopping drag in the Causeway Bay area, as a rally was held in nearby Victoria Park. Many wore face masks to shield their identities, and a few had helmets. Others just carried backpacks over the black T-shirts that have become their uniform.

"We hope the world knows that Hong Kong is not the Hong Kong it used to be," said one protester, Louisa Ho. "China is doing more and more to pressure Hong Kong, its people and its organizations."

Hong Kong has seen nine weeks of protests, with no end in sight. The movement's demands include the resignation of the Chinese territory's leader, democratic elections, the release of those arrested in earlier protests and an investigation into police use of force against the protesters.

A former British colony, Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997 under the principle of "one country, two systems," which promises the city certain democratic rights not afforded to people on the mainland. But in recent years, some have accused the Communist Party-ruled central government of steadily chipping away at their freedoms.

Banners at the rally in Victoria Park read "Give Hong Kong back to us" and "Withdraw the evil law," the latter a reference to an extradition bill that was the original spark for the protests. A large crowd sat under umbrellas, which are both a protest symbol in Hong Kong and protection from the summer heat.

Hannah Yu, an organizer, said the protest would provide a platform for people to rally peacefully. In what has become an established pattern, groups of protesters have taken over streets or besieged government buildings after largely peaceful marches and rallies earlier in the day.

"There will still be citizens going out on the streets to protest, but we cannot control them and we do not have the authority to control them," Yu said.

Police permitted the rally in Victoria Park but denied a request by organizers to also have a march in the eastern part of Hong Kong Island. Police also denied permission for the march in Kowloon, but protesters went ahead anyway.

ASIA BRIEFS

Uneasy calm in Indian Kashmir on Islamic festival day

NEW DELHI (AP)—An uneasy calm prevailed in Indian-administered Kashmir on Monday as people celebrated a major Islamic festival during an unprecedented crackdown after India moved to strip the disputed region of its constitutional autonomy and imposed an indefinite curfew. All communications and the internet remained cut off for an eighth day Monday. News reports say authorities will allow Eid al-Adha prayers at neighborhood mosques during the day but will not permit large congregations to avoid anti-India protests. The security lockdown appeared aimed at avoiding a backlash in India's only Muslim-majority region where most people oppose Indian rule. The restrictions had been briefly eased on Friday for residents to attend mosque prayers, and people also were allowed to shop for the Eid festival on Saturday and Sunday. Magistrate Shahid Choudhary tweeted late Sunday that he held a meeting with religious leaders for prayer arrangements and visited several venues.

Death toll from typhoon in eastern China rises to 45

BEIJING (AP)—The death toll from a typhoon in eastern China has risen to 45, with an estimated 16 people missing. The official Xinhua News Agency said Monday that five people have died and seven remain missing in Shandong province after Typhoon Lekima traveled up the eastern seaboard. The typhoon forced the evacuation of more than 180,000 people in Shandong and inflicted losses of 1.48 billion yuan ($211 million). Another 39 died and nine are unaccounted for in Zhejiang province, and one died in neighboring Anhui. Heavy downpours and floods were still battering Shandong on Monday. Rescue efforts were underway. The commercial hub of Shanghai also experienced heavy wind and rain, while Beijing to the north saw clear skies on Monday after rain over the weekend. Floods have also struck northeastern Manchuria.

Thai prime minister not quitting for botching oath

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said Friday he is not quitting despite facing mounting criticism for failing to properly take his oath of office. Prayuth led the inauguration of his Cabinet in a ceremony presided over by the king on July 16. However, he omitted a phrase in the oath of office in which he was supposed to pledge to uphold every aspect of the constitution. The omission has raised questions over whether the inauguration was legally valid. Prayuth told reporters Friday that he was continuing to conduct his duties "to the best of my abilities because I am the prime minister." The oath of office is required under Article 161 of Thailand's Constitution, which includes the complete oath and states it must be said to the king before Cabinet ministers take office. Prayuth's failure to recite the oath in full, which also led to other ministers making the same error because they repeated what he said, was pointed out by opposition politician Piyabutr Saengkanokkul during a Parliament session on July 25. Legal activist Srisuwan Janya filed a complaint over the issue to the Office of the Ombudsman on Monday which has been accepted for consideration.

India's main opposition Congress party in throes of crisis

NEW DELHI (AP)—By appointing Sonia Gandhi interim president, India's oldest political party seems to have sent a message that it can't survive without the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty.

Political analysts say the main opposition Congress party lost an opportunity to rid itself of an image of being driven by one particular family when Sonia Gandhi took back the party's reins Saturday from her son Rahul, whom she had anointed as her successor in 2017.

Rahul Gandhi quit last month after the party's crushing defeat in recent national elections, and his mother will be interim president until the party elects a new leader.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party won 303 of 542 seats in the lower house of Parliament in the April-May elections, while the Congress party won just 52.

Several names from outside the Gandhi family came up for the top party job. But the party fell back on the Nehru-Gandhi family as several party leaders and workers left the party for greener pastures.

"It would have made sense if there was a powerful independent president," said Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, a political analyst. "Gandhis could have been part of the party leadership and its electoral mascot."

"It's a retrograde step. It reflects very poorly on the Congress party leaders," he said.

Seema Mustafa, another political analyst, sees a bleak future for the Congress party "when it can't even think of another person out of the family."

She also said the move was a big setback for India's overall opposition, which is completely scattered. "There is not a single leader who can coalesce opposition groups—a terrible thing for a parliamentary democracy," Mustafa said.

Several party leaders and workers defected to the Bharatiya Janata Party after the elections because of the allure of the BJP, and also because they saw little future in the Congress party, Mukhopadhyay said.

After the death of her husband and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi revived the Congress party and led it to victory as the party's president in consecutive national elections in 2004 and 2009. But the party lost power to Modi's BJP in 2014.

Analysts expect a clamor among party loyalists to appoint her daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as her brother's successor.

In January, Rahul Gandhi inducted Vadra, 47, into politics as a party general secretary months before the elections.

She had in the past helped her mother and brother campaign in their constituencies in northern Uttar Pradesh state. But the party found both brother and sister hopelessly wanting in April-May national elections.

In addition to his father, Rajiv Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi's grandmother Indira Gandhi and great-grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru also served as prime minister.

Despite this latest setback, Mukhopadhyay doesn't believe Rahul Gandhi's political career, which began in 2004, has come to an end.

"I don't see him hanging his boots," he said. "I see him playing an important role within the party. In what capacity, I don't know. But he will be an important player in politics."

World

Venezuela's moribund economy shows a pulse amid US sanctions

AP
A man pays for his purchases with U.S dollars at a store in Caracas, Venezuela, Friday, Aug. 9, 2019.

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Errol Irausquin is carving out a profitable niche with his burgeoning Fat Panda restaurant business in Venezuela's capital, despite an economic collapse that has driven millions from their crumbling homeland.

Capitalizing on his success selling from a food truck, Irausquin brought his Asian-influenced menu to a new restaurant featuring spicy sandwiches that drip down customers' arms in an upscale corner of Caracas. A second location is coming soon — the sign of a little froth amid Venezuela's otherwise economic nightmare.

"Part of the population decided to stay here in the country," Irausquin said. "People need things to do. They crave going out and mingling in the open air."

He's not alone. In seeming defiance of the doomsday predictions from Washington about the economy's impending implosion, a number of trendy restaurants and shops packed with imported consumer goods, from Froot Loops to iPhones, have popped up in the last few months across Caracas.

Driving the resurgence is President Nicolas Maduro's decision in May — little appreciated at the time — to loosen rigid currency controls in place for 16 years. That step allowed banks to buy and sell U.S. dollars at any exchange rate, making it far easier for entrepreneurs to operate in a currency accepted internationally. At the same time, socialist authorities are looking the other way as the greenback has replaced the worthless local currency, the bolivar, as an accepted form of payment for purchasing even a slice of pizza.

Some even posit that with the country increasingly isolated, well-connected businessmen, some of them facing sanctions themselves, are repatriating ill-gotten gains from government contracts and the illicit sale of gold and drugs to fund the construction of new office buildings and businesses.

The result is a rare adrenaline boost for what has been a moribund economy. For the first time in years, what's still among the world's highest inflation rates is slowing, supermarkets are filling up and capitalist instincts are being unleashed.

Economists caution that the surprise bounce is very limited and unlikely to last. Sweeping U.S. sanctions, which were tightened last week when the Trump administration threatened to target foreign companies found doing business with Venezuela's government, are likely to exacerbate an economic fall years in the making.

Nonetheless, for Venezuela's shrinking elites it's a reprieve from years of scrounging across empty store shelves and driving past their favorite restaurants only to see they'd closed their doors.

A party-like street fair appeared one recent Sunday when a line of food trucks set up along a small park as the clouds cleared following a tropical downpour. Live music and glowing strings of lights drew a crowd, creating a feeling that life had returned to normal.

Luis Vicente Leon, president of Caracas-based polling firm Datanalisis, says the divide between Venezuela's haves and have-nots is growing more stark as the crisis grinds on, with the primary fault line being access to U.S. dollars.

While the wealthy one-fifth have long thrived on savings in foreign banks and paychecks from international firms, an increasing number of Venezuelans depend on $4 billion sent annually in remittances from the over 4 million compatriots who've fled in recent years.

The return of a few comforts after years of scarcity underscores the limited effectiveness of sanctions in dislodging Maduro from power, said Leon. Protests led by Juan Guaidó, who is recognized as Venezuela's rightful leader by the U.S. and more than 50 countries, have been fading in the capital, although turnout in the interior, where economic conditions are as desperate as ever, remains high.

Muslims clash with Israeli police at Jerusalem holy site

JERUSALEM (AP)—Muslim worshippers and Israeli police clashed Sunday at a major Jerusalem holy site during prayers marking the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Adha.

Palestinian medics said at least 14 people were wounded, one seriously, in the skirmishes with police at the site, which Muslims refer to as the Al-Aqsa mosque compound and Jews refer to as the Temple Mount. Police said at least four officers were wounded. Witnesses said at least two people were arrested.

Clouds of tear gas swirled and stun grenades thundered across the stone-paved esplanade as masses of worshippers skirmished with police in the worst bout of fighting at the contested holy site in months.

The clashes came amid heightened tensions between Israel and the Palestinians, just days after an Israeli soldier was killed south of Jerusalem. On Saturday, Israeli troops killed four Palestinian militants who attempted to cross the Gaza border fence.

Tens of thousands of Muslims had flocked to the site in Jerusalem's Old City early Sunday for holiday prayers, police said. Jews are also observing on Sunday the Ninth of Av, a day of fasting and mourning for the destruction of the two Biblical temples which stood at the site in antiquity.

The site is the holiest for Jews and the third holiest for Muslims, after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia, and has long been a flashpoint at the epicenter of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Jordan, which serves as the custodian of the holy site, said in a statement that it had sent a formal complaint to Israel and condemned what it called Israel's "irresponsible provocations." Sufian al-Qudah, a spokesman for the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, said Amman holds Israel completely responsible for the violence.

Large numbers of Palestinians had gathered at the gates of the compound early Sunday after rumors circulated that police would allow Jewish visitors to enter the site. The protesters chanted "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest) and threw stones at police, who then charged into the compound while firing stun grenades and rubber-coated bullets.

Israeli police had initially barred entry to Jewish visitors, but reversed their decision after the clashes broke out and allowed them to enter. Several dozen entered the site under close police escort and Muslim worshippers began throwing chairs and other objects at the group. The Jewish visitors left the compound shortly thereafter.

Jerusalem District police commander Doron Yedid told Israeli media that the decision to allow Jewish visitors to enter the site was made "with the backing of the top political officials." Police spokesmen could not be reached for comment.

The reversal came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's religious nationalist allies called for the site to be opened to Jewish visitors. Israelis are headed to unprecedented repeat elections next month after Netanyahu failed to form a government following April's elections.

Jews are barred from praying at the compound under a longstanding arrangement between Israel and Muslim authorities. Jewish tradition also maintains that Jews should avoid entering the holy site.

But in recent years Israeli religious nationalists have stepped up visits to the site to challenge the arrangement. Jewish extremists have called for destroying the mosque and rebuilding the Biblical temple.

WORLD BRIEFS

Spain fights wildfire on Canary Islands, evacuates 1,000

MADRID (AP)—Spanish authorities say a wildfire on the Canary Island of Gran Canaria has burned 1,000 hectares (2,470 acres) and has forced the evacuation of 1,000 residents. The regional government of the Canary Islands said Sunday that 200 firefighters and 10 water-dumping aircraft are working to combat the blaze that started on Saturday for reasons still unknown. Spain's military emergency unit that specializes in fighting fires has also deployed to the area. Spanish state broadcaster RTVE says the evacuations were a precaution and no homes have been burned. Televised images have showed a bright fire line consuming the hillside overnight near a town. The Canary Islands are in the Atlantic Ocean off the western coast of Africa.

UK govt boosts prisons, police powers in crime clampdown

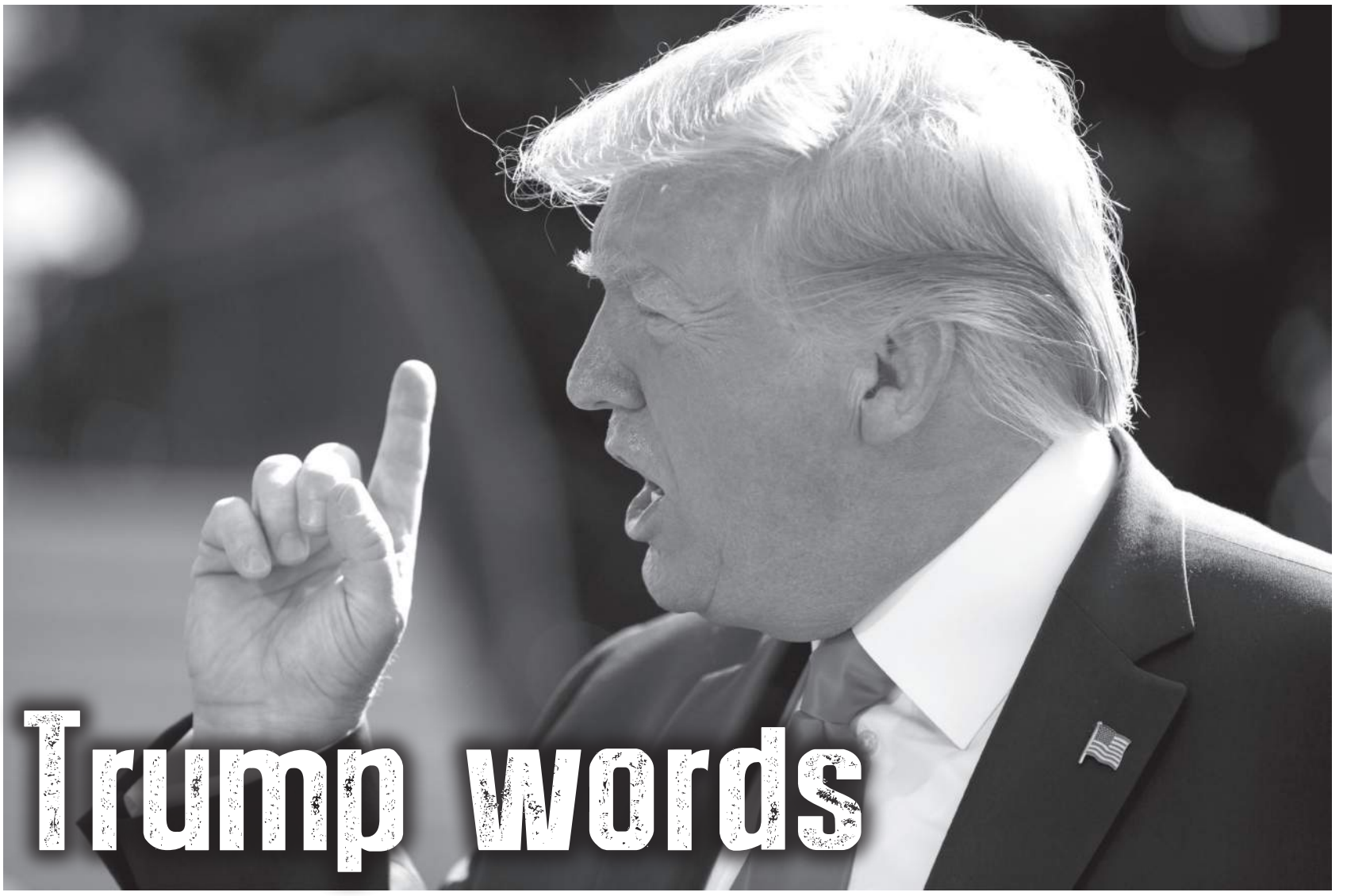
LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is promising more prisons and stronger police powers in an effort to fight violent crime. The government announced plans Sunday to create 10,000 more prison places to ease overcrowding and said it would allow police to stop and search people without reasonable suspicion "if serious violence is anticipated." Such powers are contentious because young ethnic-minority men are disproportionately likely to be stopped and searched. Opposition Labour Party law-and-order spokeswoman Diane Abbott said it was "a tried-and-tested recipe for unrest, not violence reduction." Official statistics show that violent crime has begun to rise after declining for two decades. The crime clampdown is the latest in a series of policy promises that Johnson, a Conservative, has made since taking office last month, sparking speculation that an early election is looming.

Big fire spreading in Athens suburb, homes being evacuated

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A big fire has broken out in the Athens suburb of Peania east of the city, and authorities say they have ordered the evacuation of nearby houses. The fire has spread quickly and has climbed near the top of 1,026-meter (3,366 ft) Mount Hymettus, which separates the suburb from the main city. Flames shooting up the mountain could be seen from Athens early Monday morning. At least 130 firefighters with 42 vehicles are fighting the fire, authorities say. Apparently, the fire started inside a house or a garden, according to the country's fire service.

Focus

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN and ASTRID GALVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP
President Donald Trump talks to reporters on the South Lawn of the White House, Friday, Aug. 9, 2019, in Washington, as he prepares to leave Washington for his annual August holiday at his New Jersey golf club.

Trump words linked to more hate crime? Some experts think so

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—President Donald Trump has often railed about an "invasion of illegals" at the southern border, words echoed in a screed the El Paso shooting suspect apparently posted that called the attack that killed 22 people at a Walmart his response to a "Hispanic invasion of Texas."

Some extremism experts believe that may not be an accident. They say historical data suggests a link between heated rhetoric from top political leaders and ensuing reports of hate crimes, only adding to the fears of those who could be targeted.

"We can't say that Trump is at fault because these mass killings have existed for a long time," said Carlos Tarin, a Mexican immigrant who has lived in El Paso for three decades, but the recent rancor over immigration "has woken up that feeling that had been sleeping."

The rampage in Texas has brought new attention to the dangers of immigration-motivated hate crimes and violence in a country with 58 million Latinos amid daily political rhetoric from the White House, conservative politicians and the dark corners of the internet about migrants coming across the border.

Overall, statistics released by the FBI late last year showed hate crimes in the United States rose 17% in 2017 compared to the previous year, the third straight annual increase. There were 7,175 hate crime incidents in 2017, and of the crimes motivated by hatred over race or ethnicity, nearly half involved African-Americans and 11% were anti-Hispanic.

But an analysis of such FBI data over the years by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University-San Bernardino yielded more specific results when it came to intense political debates.

It found that during August 2017, the month of the violent clash between white-supremacists and counter protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia—when Trump infamously said there were "very fine people on both sides"—reported hate crimes nationally increased to 663 incidents, the second-highest tally in nearly a decade.

That was surpassed only by the month of November 2016 surrounding the rancorous presidential race won by Trump over Democrat Hillary Clinton, when reported hate crimes nationally soared to 758 incidents.

And after a terrorist shooting by a Muslim couple that killed 14 people in San Bernardino, California, in 2015, Trump made a campaign trail plea for a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States" until lawmakers "can figure out what the hell is going on." Over the next 10 days, reported hate crimes against Muslims and Arabs nationwide spiked 23%.

"We see a correlation around the time of statements of political leaders and fluctuations in hate crimes," said the center's director, Brian Levin. "Could there be other intervening causes? Yes. But it's certainly a significant correlation that can't be ignored."

To be sure, linking political speech, however fiery, to acts of violence can be problematic. For one, people commit hateful and violent acts for all manner of reasons that have nothing to do with the public discourse. And federal hate crime data has long been criticized as incomplete, since not all areas report their incidents to the FBI and many cases go unreported to police. Researchers acknowledge those factors but say the numbers are striking nonetheless.

A team from the University of North Texas recently produced a study that found counties that hosted a 2016 Trump campaign rally saw a 226% increase in reported hate incidents over comparable counties that did not host such a rally.

"I'm convinced now that political rhetoric of elites influences the behavior of supporters," said North Texas political science professor Valerie Martinez-Ebers. "This research confirms, at least in my mind, that the political rhetoric that's happening today is influencing the American public's actions."

Martinez-Ebers noted there has been valid criticism that researchers haven't looked for spikes in hate incidents after rallies by other presidential candidates. "We still need to do that," she said.

On Tuesday, Trump defended his rhetoric on such issues as immigration and denied stoking divisions that spawned the violence, contending that he "brings people together. Our country is doing incredibly well."

Trump earlier in the week called the weekend's shootings in El Paso and Dayton, Ohio, barbaric crimes "against all humanity" and called for unity to respond to the bloodshed. But critics question whether he has the moral authority to lead that push given his past statements.

On Facebook alone, Trump's campaign has run around 2,200 ads since May 2018 that mention the word "invasion" when referring to immigrants at the southern border, according to the social network's political advertising archive.

Last month at a rally in Greenville, North Carolina, Trump questioned the patriotism of Somali-born Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and then stood silent for 13 seconds while the crowd loudly chanted, "Send her back!"

At a rally earlier this year in Panama City Beach, Florida, Trump noted the obstacles U.S. Border Patrol agents face in preventing migrants from coming into the country. "How do you stop these people?" he asked.

"Shoot them!" someone in the crowd yelled. Trump grinned, shook his head and said, "Only in the Panhandle can you get away with that statement. Only in the Panhandle!"

Heidi Beirich, of the Southern Poverty Law Center, says Trump's words have fueled anti-immigrant hatred and amplified conspiracy theories that non-white immigrants are systematically replacing whites.

"What Trump has done has heightened those fears," she said.

Without naming Trump specifically, former President Barack Obama tweeted this week: "We should soundly reject language coming out of the mouths of any of our leaders that feeds a climate of fear and hatred or normalizes racist sentiments."

But the historical data also has hopeful examples, says hate crime researcher Levin. He noted that the "worst month for all hate crime" occurred around the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Six days later, President George W. Bush delivered an address to the nation denouncing anti-Muslim harassment and saying, "The face of terror is not the true faith of Islam."

Anti-Muslim hate crime reports dropped by two-thirds the next day and for the calendar year 2002 as well.

For now, though, immigrants don't have to look far to see incidents of discrimination.

Over the past year and a half alone, a man wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat pushed a Mexican immigrant onto the New York City subway tracks while shouting anti-Hispanic slurs.

The Hispanic mayor of a Seattle suburb was assaulted from behind at a block party by a man who disparaged his ancestry and policies supporting Latino immigrants. And a New York attorney was caught on video yelling at customers and employees at a Manhattan restaurant, saying he supposed they were in the U.S. illegally and his next call would be to immigration authorities "to have each one of them kicked out of my country."

Antonio Velasquez, an evangelical pastor from Guatemala who has been in Phoenix for three decades, said many immigrants in his largely Hispanic neighborhood have grown increasingly scared in the last few years amid stepped up immigration enforcement and growing racism.

"People really don't go out anymore," he said. "They'll go to school and to church and to the park, but they really don't like to leave the Hispanic neighborhoods."

Overdrive

2020 Range Rover Evoque

nails the look and feel, but has maddening oversight

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

The 2020 Range Rover Evoque SUV is a masterclass in the meaning and value of a strong brand. It's not the fastest, most powerful or most capable vehicle in its class, but people will happily pay a premium for the new compact luxury SUV. Why? Because the new Evoque nails the look and feel owners expect from Land Rover, and that makes the whole greater than the sum of its parts.

Range Rover read the tea leaves early. The brand was among the first to realize people wanted SUVs in all shapes and sizes. The original Evoque, which went on sale as a 2012 model, was the brand's first step beyond big boxy off-roaders to offer a full family of vehicles with a range of prices and capabilities.

Full disclosure: I never cared for that first-generation Evoque. I thought it was under-powered, overpriced and had an inconveniently small interior. The 2020 that just went on sale remedies those issues and more.

Evoque prices start at $42,650. All-wheel drive, a 2.0L turbocharged engine and nine-speed automatic transmission are standard. The base model has 246 horsepower and 269 pound-feet of torque. Mild hybrid models badged R-Dynamic have a higher output 2.0L engine and 48-volt starter-generator to produce 296 horsepower and 295 pound-feet. The mild hybrid allows R-Dynamic models to score the same EPA fuel economy rating as the less powerful base engine.

R-Dynamic prices start at $46,600.

I tested a loaded Evoque First Edition model that had the base 246-hp engine and features including leather upholstery, 21-inch wheels, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, navigation, dual touch screens, adaptive suspension, adaptive cruise control and more.

It stickered at $58,220. All prices exclude destination charges.

The Evoque's competition includes the Audi Q3, BMW X2, Cadillac XT4, Infiniti QX30, Jeep Cherokee, Mercedes GLA 250 and Volvo XC40.

Evoque prices are at the high end of the segment.

Every time I walked up to the Evoque, I mentally evaluated its competition and decided it was overpriced. But every time I drove it, I found myself thinking, "Yeah, if I had to spend 60 grand on a small SUV, this is the one I'd get."

That's what happens when a vehicle's design, features and brand align perfectly.

Is it too much to ask for a tuning dial?

The 2020 Range Rover Evoque SUV. TNS

NUTS & BOLTS

(Specifications as tested)
- Engine: 2.0L turbocharged 4-cylinder
- Power: 246 hp @ 5,500 rpm; 269 pound-feet of torque @ 1,300-4,500 rpm
- Transmission: 9-speed automatic
- Wheelbase: 105.6 inches
- Length: 172.1 inches
- Width: 75 inches
- Height: 64.9 inches
- Curb weight: 3,935 pounds
- Assembled in Halewood, U.K.

The new Evoque retains its predecessor's modern and distinctive exterior with a smooth profile, rising beltline and long roofline. The high beltline and small rear window would create very poor visibility in vehicles without blind spot alert and video rear-view mirror.

The most noticeable changes are slim LED headlights and flush door handles that pop out for opening when you press a button and retract when the vehicle starts or is locked.

The interior is similarly uncluttered. Twin touch screens and a pair of multifunction dials eliminate many buttons and dials.

The layout works well, with a couple of omissions I suspect will grow irritating over time: There's no tuning dial for the audio system, a maddening oversight automakers continue to repeat. In addition, Apple CarPlay doesn't start automatically. Every time I started the car, a message asked if I wanted to use Land Rover's inferior app or CarPlay. I have never preferred an automaker's jerry-rigged interface to Apple's, and nothing in Land Rover's history with advanced electronics says that's changing today.

The interior is surprisingly roomy for a small vehicle. At 172.1 inches long, the 2020 Evoque is 10.5 inches shorter than a Honda Civic sedan, but the Evoque's front seat and cargo space are both accommodating. Rear legroom is fine. Headroom is excellent for all passengers.

Where are the hybrid's extra mpg?

The Evoque's small size makes it easy to maneuver and park. The steering is direct, and the suspension absorbs bumps for a comfortable ride.

Like Jeep, Land Rover builds a little extra off-road ability into all its vehicles. The Evoque's 8.3 inches of ground clearance is nothing special, but it's 1.6 more than an XT4 offers, 1.1 more than an X2. It's 0.4 inches less than a Jeep Cherokee, the other best example of a brand that knows its identity is inextricably intertwined with its off-road heritage.

The base engine provided plenty of power for driving around town and fast highway cruising.

The EPA rates the 2020 Evoque at 20 mpg in the city, 27 on the highway and 23 in combined driving. The Evoque uses premium gasoline. The 23-mpg combined figure trails all comparable models except the V-6 Jeep Cherokee.

The more powerful engine in R-Dynamic models undoubtedly uses its mild-hybrid system to match the base engine's output, but I'm disappointed that both of them are 2 mpg worse than the model the 2020 Evoque replaces. The 2019 Evoque's combined rating was 25 mpg.

A Goldilocks SUV

The Evoque's full name is a mouthful: Land Rover Range Rover Evoque. Try putting that on your vanity plate.

It's a case of branding run amok. Land Rover, the mother brand that debuted in 1948, split its model line in two a few years ago.

Somewhat outdoorsy models' names start "Land Rover": Land Rover Discovery Sport for instance. More luxurious models begin Range Rover, like the Range Rover Evoque and Range Rover Velar.

The name may be an example of overthinking a brand, but there's little doubt Land Rover gave the 2020 Evoque the combination of slick looks and off-road capability the brand's fans expect.

Under the Hood: Valve job cheaper than new truck

Q: My 2006 Chevy Colorado pickup has developed a misfire. I took it to a shop. They ran some tests and said it has low compression due to a faulty intake valve. They said this was common for this truck. I'm pondering my options, as it's a shame to give up on this truck with only 72,000 miles on the odometer. What are your suggestions for what to do?

—Ed O.

A: Ed, you're correct this is a common fault on GM's 2.8- and 3.5-liter engines built from 2004 to 2006. The intake valve seats deteriorate and compression is lost. In 2008, GM offered a special coverage adjustment, extending the warranty period for a failure of this type to seven years or 100,000 miles. Unfortunately, you are far beyond the time frame.

All is not lost. A valve job should get your Colorado running sweet again! The cylinder head is removed and either replaced with an exchange unit or remanufactured by a local machine shop. A lower timing gear tensioner holding tool saves time during disassembly/reassembly, and the job can be performed with the engine remaining in the chassis.

It's prudent during a job like this to also consider renewing belts, hoses, water pump and a few other miscellaneous parts along with the cylinder head work. Remanufactured/exchange cylinder heads run about $700 and the labor to do the job is perhaps 10-12 hours. Not an inexpensive repair, but it pales in comparison to buying another truck!

Q: My son's car has begun to overheat at times. I'm trying to get him to get it serviced before he destroys the engine. Can you provide me with some causes and ammunition to get him moving on this?

—Carl D.

A: This needs prompt attention! A head gasket failure, damaged cylinder head or worse can result, costing several thousand dollars! If the engine is losing coolant due to a leak, the cause should be fairly evident, and perhaps not that difficult to resolve. Common leakage causes are failed hoses, loose connections, a leaky water pump, or heater core (leaks inside the cabin).

When does the high temperature condition occur? If at low speed/in traffic, an inoperative electric cooling fan could be the cause. Can he hear the fan cycling on at times? On longitudinal engines (inline) the mechanical fan likely includes a fan clutch to increase airflow under high temperature conditions. This may be faulty.

At high speed/load, the cause could be a restricted radiator (bugs or debris clogging exterior, and/or the air conditioner condenser in front of the radiator, or clogging interior passages), a missing or damaged air deflector (which directs air to the radiator) or a worn water pump impeller, among other possibilities.

Your son can improve the chances for an accurate diagnosis and repair if he can explain or demonstrate the symptom to the service provider.

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

CHAMPIONS AGAIN

13 key moments leading to Queen's killer comeback

By CHRIS RIEMENSCHNEIDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Even though singer Freddie Mercury is here only in spirit—but what a holy spirit—Queen is bigger than ever in 2019.

I could provide numerical proof of the band's ascension to new heights 28 years after Mercury's death: Queen sold more albums in North America than any artist in the first half of 2019, and the original 1975 clip for "Bohemian Rhapsody" just became the first pre-MTV music video to earn more than 1 billion views on YouTube.

Even better, though, here's a personal anecdote: My 8-year-old daughter and her friends know way more Queen songs than I did when I was 8, which was in 1981, right at the apex of the British quartet's heyday.

I was already a rabid rock fan then, too. I knew countless Led Zeppelin, Kiss and AC/DC songs but probably could've sung you only the "Flash Gordon" theme and two other Queen songs: "Another One Bites the Dust" and "We Will Rock You"/"We Are the Champions" (technically three tunes, but KQRS played the latter two as one track).

I wouldn't know how to "Scaramouche" and "do the fandango" on cue to "Bohemian Rhapsody" until I saw the movie "Wayne's World" a decade later. I certainly didn't know the words to "Killer Queen," "Don't Stop Me Now," "Under Pressure" and "Somebody to Love"—songs that prompt singalongs in many families' cars nowadays, and have actually re-entered the charts over the past year.

Of course, the reason for this posthumous mega-boost is the movie based on Mercury's life, "Bohemian Rhapsody," which took home four Oscars and $900 million in box office sales since its release last November. Capitalizing on its surprising success, the two remaining members, guitarist Brian May and drummer Roger Taylor, are making a victory lap with singer Adam Lambert on a worldwide tour.

Here's a look back, charting all the ups and downs that led to Queen's all-time high.

1 **Less-than-killer start.** The band's first two albums were flops, and the third ("Sheer Heart Attack," now a fan fave) became only a modest hit thanks to the bouncy single "Killer Queen." U.S. sales were especially tepid going into their first tour here in 1974, opening for Mott the Hoople.

2 **Operatic uptick.** Fourth album "Night at the Opera" was the charm in 1975. The band's experimentation with big sonic production and layered vocals led to the truly operatic single "Bohemian Rhapsody" and a compelling concept album. A successful 1976 U.S. tour included a memorable show at the old St. Paul Civic Center.

3 **Champions at last.** After packing sports arenas, the band delivered the sporty battle cry "We Will Rock You"/"We Are the Champions." If the band had quit there, its members would have retired well off the royalties from those oft-cranked songs.

4 **Not too jazzed.** The rise of punk and metal in the late '70s made Queen's high-concept rock seem "elitist," to paraphrase a Rolling Stone review of the 1978 album "Jazz." Its singles failed to garner much U.S. radio play, including the now-revered "Don't Stop Me Now."

5 **Back in the game.** Seemingly unworried about maintaining their rock cred, in 1980 the quartet turned in the campy "Flash Gordon" soundtrack and the slick album "The Game," which featured the full-on disco groover "Another One Bites the Dust" and the Elvis-flavored "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," two of their biggest U.S. singles.

6 **Breathing space.** Already butting heads while making the 1982 album "Hot Space," Queen's members went on hiatus after its icy reception. Contrary to the movie, all of them worked on solo projects, not just Mercury. None saw much success, though.

7 **Live Aid revival.** The quartet was playing shows again before its rousing performance at Wembley Stadium for 1985's two-continent mega-concert (another inaccuracy in last year's film), but this truly was an unforgettable comeback moment.

8 **Mercury's decline.** Another factual error in the biopic: The singer's fatal AIDS diagnosis was actually revealed after Live Aid. Related or not—but understandable, if so—the albums that followed sagged creatively and commercially, especially 1989's "The Miracle." The band was at something of a low point when Mercury died in 1991.

9 **Honored in the '90s.** The 1992 "Wayne's World" movie was unforeseeably huge. Mike Myers and Dana Carvey lip-syncing/head-banging to "Bohemian Rhapsody" behind the wheel of a Pacer made the song an even bigger radio hit. More seriously, a 1992 Mercury tribute concert with George Michael, Elton John, David Bowie and Axl Rose reiterated his legacy as a singer. And the Queen/Bowie collaboration "Under Pressure" gained new popularity after Vanilla Ice sampled it for 1990's "Ice Ice Baby."

10 **On screens big and small.** Hollywood latched onto the band's legacy in the 2000s, using its songs in such movies as "High Fidelity" and "A Knight's Tale" ("We Are the Champions" in both), "Shaun of the Dead" ("Don't Stop Me Now") and even the kids movies "Ella Enchanted" and "Happy Feet" ("Somebody to Love"). The band's classics also earned new fans via the "Rock Band" and "Guitar Hero" games.

11 **Paul who?** The first singer that May and Taylor hired to tour with Queen as Mercury's stand-in was truly bad company, to use the name of Paul Rodgers' old band. He had neither the flashy charisma nor the vocal range, and lasted just one tour, in 2005-06.

12 **Lambert gets the part.** After May and Taylor helped judge a Queen episode of "American Idol" in 2009, they hired the show's flamboyantly rocking runner-up, Adam Lambert, for a few TV and charity-gig appearances before they finally hit the road together starting in 2013. They continued touring in 2017, then settled in for a successful Las Vegas residency last year.

13 **Total rhapsody.** As of last week, the "Bohemian Rhapsody" soundtrack, DVD and streaming releases all remain high on their respective sales charts eight months since the movie's release.

Versace apologizes in flap over T-shirts sold in China

BEIJING (AP)—Italian fashion house Versace apologized Sunday in China for selling T-shirts that it said attached incorrect country names to cities, after being attacked on social media for challenging China's territorial integrity.

Versace did not identify the T-shirt in its own post on Weibo, a popular Chinese social media site, but the Global Times newspaper said the item mislabeled Hong Kong and Macao as countries. Both are former European colonies that were returned to China in the late 1990s.

The apology came after a Chinese actress cut her ties with the company, saying the clothing was suspected of harming China's sovereignty.

The studio for Yang Mi, who had been a brand ambassador for Versace, said in a Weibo post that it had sent notice to Versace to terminate their contract. "The motherland's sovereignty and territorial integrity are sacred and inviolable," the studio's statement read in part.

Versace said the shirts had been removed from all sales channels on July 24 and destroyed.

In this Feb. 15, 2008, file photo, a child and a man sit in front of the advertisement of Versace in Shanghai, China. AP

"It's our company's negligence and we express deep apology for the impact it caused," it said on Weibo. "Versace reiterates that we love China and resolutely respect China's territory and sovereignty."

Versace is not the first foreign company to face flak over how it describes Hong Kong. China has pressured international airlines and other companies to describe the city as "Hong Kong, China" on their websites, rather than just as "Hong Kong." Both Hong Kong and Macao are semi-autonomous territories that have separate identities from China in many peoples' minds.

The latest flap comes at a sensitive time for China, as protesters in Hong Kong demanding democracy have taken to the streets all summer, motivated in large part by a desire to protect their way of life from interference by the central government in Beijing.

'Hobbs & Shaw' repeats at No. 1 against slew of newcomers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Audiences helped the "Fast & Furious" spinoff "Hobbs & Shaw" take another lap at No. 1 even with an onslaught of four new major releases this weekend. From family films to R-rated adult fare, moviegoers had their pick as studios tried to capitalize on the waning days of summer. But although August can be a great opportunity for non-superhero films, it's not a sure thing. And this weekend some, such as "Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark," fared better than others, like the Melissa McCarthy and Tiffany Haddish mob thriller "The Kitchen."

"There are always going to be casualties when there are this many openers," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for box office tracker Comscore. "They cannot always be lined up in the top four rankings."

"Hobbs & Shaw" managed to hold on to first place again. According to estimates from Universal Pictures Sunday, the Dwayne Johnson and Jason Statham action flick fell 58% from its first weekend but added $25.4 million from North American theaters. It's now grossed $108.5 million domestically and $332.6 million worldwide.

Second place went to the PG-13 film "Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark," from CBS Films and eOne Entertainment, which cut through the clutter with a better than expected $20.8 million. Lionsgate distributed the Guillermo del Toro-produced horror which had been tracking to open in the mid-teens.

"The filmmakers and the team at CBS Films are thrilled that moviegoers are embracing the world of 'Scary Stories,'" del Toro said in a statement Sunday. "It's particularly satisfying to see families experiencing the fun of the movie together."

This image released by Universal Pictures shows Dwayne Johnson, left, and Jason Statham in a scene from "Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw." AP

1. **"Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw,"** *$25.4 million* ($60.8 million international).
2. **"Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark,"** *$20.8 million* ($2.5 million international).
3. **"The Lion King,"** *$20 million* ($51.4 million international).
4. **"Dora and the Lost City of Gold,"** *$17 million* ($2.5 million international).
5. **"Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood,"** *$11.6 million* ($7.7 million international).
6. **"The Art of Racing in the Rain,"** *$8.1 million* ($1.1 million international).
7. **"The Kitchen,"** *$5.5 million.*
8. **"Spider-Man: Far From Home,"** *$5.3 million* ($5.3 million international).
9. **"Toy Story 4,"** *$4.4 million* ($9.7 million international).
10. **"Bring the Soul: The Movie,"** *$2.3 million* ($5.9 million international).

Good reviews helped raise its profile, although audiences were more underwhelmed after the fact, slapping it with a C CinemaScore.

Dergarabedian noted that, even with a PG-13 rating, horror movies once again prove to be, "a consistent draw at the box office."

Close behind in third was "The Lion King" with $20 million in its fifth weekend in theaters. With $1.3 billion globally, it's now surpassed "Beauty and the Beast" as Disney's highest-grossing "live-action" release.

Newcomer "Dora and the Lost City of Gold," from Paramount Pictures, found a healthy audience too, earning an estimated $17 million for a fourth place start. Starring Isabela Moner, "Dora," based on the popular television series, also got good reviews from critics and audiences, who gave it an A CinemaScore.

And in fifth place, Quentin Tarantino's star-vehicle "Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood" added $11.6 million and crossed the $100 million mark.

But not all the newcomers were so lucky. The dog owner tearjerker "The Art of Racing in the Rain," with Milo Ventimiglia, opened in sixth place with $8.1 million. The Fox 2000 property was inherited by Disney in the takeover.

And the '70s-set McCarthy and Haddish crime thriller "The Kitchen" flopped in seventh with only $5.5 million. Based on an obscure Vertigo comic, the film from first time director Andrea Berloff (an Oscar-nominated screenwriter) features both McCarthy and Haddish in more dramatic roles. But critics were not impressed: The film currently has a dismal 20% on Rotten Tomatoes and audiences also largely stayed away.

Warner Bros. distribution head Jeff Goldstein said that they were "very disappointed" with the results.

"I think that the filmmakers took a very bold approach to their choice with the movie and I think it just didn't resonate with the viewers," Goldstein said. "The good news is the movie was a fairly low-budgeted film."

Audiences also had a slew of new limited releases to choose between: The BTS concert film "Bring the Soul: The Movie," which earned $2.3 million from only 873 locations; "Brian Banks," based on the real story of a false accusation that upends a promising football star's life which debuted in 1,240 locations and earned $2.1 million; "The Peanut Butter Falcon," with Shia LaBeouf and Dakota Johnson, which earned $205,236 from 17 locations; and "After the Wedding," with Michelle Williams and Julianne Moore ($57,124 from five locations).

Walmart pulls violent game displays but will still sell guns

NEW YORK (AP)—Walmart has ordered workers to remove video game signs and displays that depict violence from stores nationwide after 22 people died in a shooting at one of its Texas stores, but the big box retailer will continue to sell guns.

In an internal memo, the retailer told employees to remove any violent marketing material, unplug Xbox and PlayStation consoles that show violent video games and turn off any violence depicted on screens in its electronics departments.

Employees also were asked to shut off hunting season videos in the sporting goods department where guns are sold. "Remove from the salesfloor or turn off these items immediately," the memo said.

Walmart will still sell the violent video games and hasn't made any changes to its gun sales policy, despite pressure from workers, politicians and activists to do so.

"We've taken this action out of respect for the incidents of the past week," Walmart spokeswoman Tara House said in an email. She declined to answer any questions beyond the statement.

Detractors panned the move as an empty gesture aimed a deflecting criticism rather than solving a problem.

"That is a non-answer and a non-solution," said Thomas Marshall, who works at Walmart's e-commerce division in San Bruno, California, and has helped organize a petition to get the company to stop selling guns. He said they plan to email the petition, which has more than 53,000 signatures, to Walmart CEO Doug McMillon on Friday.

After the massacre at the El Paso Walmart this weekend, McMillon said the company "will be thoughtful and deliberate in our responses."

After the mass shooting at a Parkland, Florida, high school last year, Walmart Inc. banned sales of firearms and ammunition to people younger than 21. It had stopped selling AR-15s and other semi-automatic weapons in 2015, citing weak sales.

President Donald Trump blamed "gruesome and grisly video games" for encouraging violence Monday, but there is no known link between violent video games and violent acts.

The El Paso massacre was followed by another shooting hours later in Dayton, Ohio, that killed nine people.

The United States has had 254 mass shootings —instances of four or more people being shot in individual outbreaks—in 2019, according to the Gun Violence Archive. That's more mass shootings than days so far this year.

Scott Galloway, a marketing professor at New York University, said the move to hide violent imagery in stores was "a cheap attempt to distract consumers and the media from the real issue, which is, Walmart continues to sell guns."

Social media users slammed the move, too, and #BoycottWalmart was trending Friday on Twitter.

Other companies have made changes after the shootings. ESPN postponed the airing of an esports competition for shooting game "Apex Legends." And NBC Universal pulled some ads for its upcoming movie "The Hunt," which depicted characters hunting and shooting at each other.

The killings have put the country on edge.

On Thursday, panicked shoppers fled a Walmart in Springfield, Missouri, after a man carrying a rifle and wearing body armor walked around the store before being stopped by an off-duty firefighter. No shots were fired and the man was arrested after surrendering.

On Friday, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Democrat running for president, blasted Walmart in a tweet.

"The weapons they sell are killing their own customers and employees. No profit is worth those lives. Do the right thing —stop selling guns," she wrote.

K-pop superstar group BTS will take 'extended' break

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—K-pop superstar group BTS is taking an extended break to "enjoy the ordinary lives of young people in their 20s, albeit briefly," their agency said Monday.

Big Hit Entertainment said a concert Sunday in Seoul was the group's last scheduled performance before the seven members take "vacations" for the first time since their 2013 debut.

The agency didn't say when BTS will perform again. According to the company's website, BTS is scheduled to perform in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Seoul in October.

"Should you have a chance encounter with a member of BTS while they are on vacation, we ask that you show consideration for their need to rest and enjoy their private time off," the agency said.

BTS has a large international following and was the first K-pop act to debut atop the Billboard Album chart last year with "Love Yourself: Tear."

AP

In this May 15, 2019, file photo, South Korean boy band BTS perform on ABC's "Good Morning America at Rumsey Playfield/SummerStage in Central Park, in New York.

Rapper Big Sean hosts events aimed at helping Detroit youth

DETROIT (AP)—Rapper Big Sean's philanthropic foundation is hosting another weekend of events in Detroit aimed at helping youth in his hometown.

The 2nd annual Detroit's On Now Weekend kicks off next Saturday with the unveiling of the Sean Anderson Production Studio in the Dauch Campus Boys and Girls Club. It's part of an effort to help Detroit children launch careers in the entertainment industry.

Big Sean will host a discussion the following Sunday that focuses on mental health and the stigma around it in the black community. Scheduled guests include psychiatrist Jessica Clemons and sociologist and author Michael Eric Dyson.

Other planned events include live performances, health screenings, apprenticeship opportunities and carnival rides, as well as free food, haircuts and braiding.

The nonprofit Sean Anderson Foundation was organized in 2012.

Some of 'The Shawshank Redemption' cast to celebrate film

MANSFIELD, Ohio (AP)—Some cast members of the "The Shawshank Redemption" movie will reunite in Ohio for the film's 25th anniversary celebration.

The Aug. 16-18 celebration of the film shot almost entirely in and around the northern Ohio city of Mansfield will feature various events, including panel discussions with crew and cast members.

Organizers say TV personality and film critic Ben Mankiewicz will lead one discussion Friday in Mansfield at the Renaissance Theatre, where the movie premiered in 1994. It will precede a screening of the film starring Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman.

The host of Turner Classic Movies also will moderate another discussion Saturday at the Ohio State Reformatory that served as Shawshank State Prison in the movie.

J.D. Salinger's books are finally going digital

NEW YORK (AP)—You'll finally be able to catch the late J.D. Salinger's books in digital format.

Longtime Salinger publisher Little, Brown and Company said all four of his works, including "The Catcher in the Rye," will be made available as e-books Tuesday, marking the first time that the entirety of his published work will be available in digital format.

His son, Matt Salinger, said the digital holdout ended because many readers use e-books exclusively and some people with disabilities can only use them.

"There were few things my father loved more than the full tactile experience of reading a printed book, but he may have loved his readers more—and not just the 'ideal private reader' he wrote about, but all his readers," said Salinger, who helps oversee his father's literary estate.

AP

In a Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019 file photo, a previously unseen photo of author J.D. Salinger is displayed at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, N.H

In addition to "The Catcher in the Rye," the e-books include "Nine Stories," "Franny and Zooey," and "Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters and Seymour: An Introduction."

The electronic publication continues a yearlong centennial celebration of author's birth and his contributions to literature.

Salinger, who died in 2010, lived a reclusive life in Cornish, New Hampshire, and rarely spoke to the media. He not only stopped releasing new work, but rejected any reissues or e-book editions.

Universal cancels controversial 'Hunt' in wake of shootings

NEW YORK (AP)—Universal Pictures has canceled the planned September release of its controversial social satire "The Hunt," in the wake of recent mass shootings and amid criticism from President Donald Trump.

The move came several days after the studio suspended the ad campaign for the film, a gory, R-rated thriller that tells a tale of liberal "elites" hunting people in red states for sport.

In a statement Saturday, Universal said it had decided to take the further step of canceling the film's Sept. 27 release, saying "We understand that now is not the right time to release this film."

Left open was the possibility that the movie could be released in theaters or on streaming at a later date.

Change in man's personality when drinking threatens wife

DEAR ABBY: Sometimes when my husband has been drinking, he does things I consider inappropriate with his cousin and childhood friend "Jasper." The most recent incident involved my husband pulling down his pants and showing Jasper his private parts. Later that night he tried to grab Jasper's crotch.

To me, Jasper seems slightly uncomfortable, but he just laughs it off. When I confronted my husband about it, he said I was overreacting and he was "just messing around." I don't think he's gay, but it almost feels like he is cheating on me. Am I overreacting, and what should I do?

CONFOUNDED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR CONFOUNDED: Your husband's immature behavior "sometimes when he has been drinking" is EXTREMELY inappropriate. How many times has this occurred? Listen to your gut and get to the bottom of this because it appears you are married to a problem drinker who may need help.

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, my mom and I started a book club. For the most part, it's been a lot of fun. But one member, "Maeve," has to be the smartest person in the room no matter the topic. She often belittles other members she considers less educated than she is. She also frequently doesn't read or finish the book. She uses the excuse of, "Oh, I read that years ago, and I didn't have time to review it again."

Maeve is retired, and I don't mean to judge what she does with her time but, if all of us who are working can find time, surely she can too. Abby, would it be terrible to ask her to leave the book club? Every other member has complained to either me or my mom about Maeve. What should we do?

BOOK ADDICT IN THE SOUTH

DEAR BOOK ADDICT: Talk privately with Maeve. Tell her how her actions have made the rest of the members uncomfortable and give her some examples. Then tell her that if she can't keep up with the reading and contribute in a positive manner —which is the reason the club was formed—she should withdraw.

DEAR ABBY: I am a happily married woman. After 45 years of working full time and raising three great children, I decided to retire. I loved working and raising my children, and I am now thoroughly enjoying my retirement.

I do not yet have grandchildren, and my days are quiet and simple, which is fine with me. My husband and I enjoy little things—the crossword puzzle, discussing the news, going to a play or concert and enjoying the company of our children and extended family when we get together.

The problem? My working siblings and their spouses constantly ask, "So, what are you doing with your time?" If I say, "Enjoying each day as it comes," they scoff and say, "So, you're just doing NOTHING?! Are you ever going to work again?" It makes me feel sad and judged, and I don't know how to respond. What can I say to these folks who think I'm "doing nothing"?

LOST FOR WORDS IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR LOST FOR WORDS: You can feel sad and judged only if you allow it. All you have to say to these people is, "I'm finding plenty of things to devote time to—spending more time with my husband, chief among them—and I'm wallowing in it!" Then smile.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

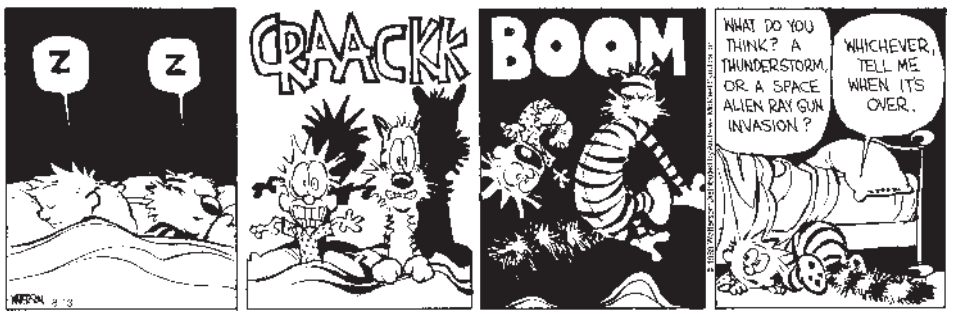
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

GARFIELD, REMEMBER WHAT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT SAID...
"THE ONLY THING WE HAVE TO FEAR IS FEAR ITSELF"
I BET FRANKLIN NEVER HAD TO STARE DOWN MONTH-OLD SAUERKRAUT

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHERE'S DAD?
HE'S TAKING A BATH.
A BATH? DAD TAKES BATHS?
HE'S TRYING SOMETHING NEW. HE'S HOPING IT HELPS HIM THINK.
THAT'S A LOT TO ASK OF SOME HOT WATER.
IT'S BETTER THAN HIS "SIX BAGS OF TWIZZLERS" METHOD.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THERE'S A LADY WHO'S SURE ALL THAT GLITTERS IS GOLD...
...AND SHE'S BUYING A STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN.
UH-YOU MAY HAVE HEARD TONIGHT'S PRAYER SOMEWHERE BEFORE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dogpatch creator
5 — Claire, WI
8 Edison's middle name
12 Slender woodwind
13 Beetle and Rabbit
14 Set down
15 Erte's style
16 Classy quality
18 Folks who fled to wed?
20 Alan of "Argo"
21 Non-clerical
22 Branch
23 Steak cut
26 Heavenly
30 Yale grad
31 Mature
32 Weep
33 Giving the slip to
36 Pasta topper
38 Small batteries
39 Poetic dusk
40 Song of praise
43 May and Stritch
47 Snobbish types
49 Beer ingredient
50 Make over
51 "Exodus" hero
52 "Puppy Love" singer
53 Idyllic place
54 Teeny
55 Endure

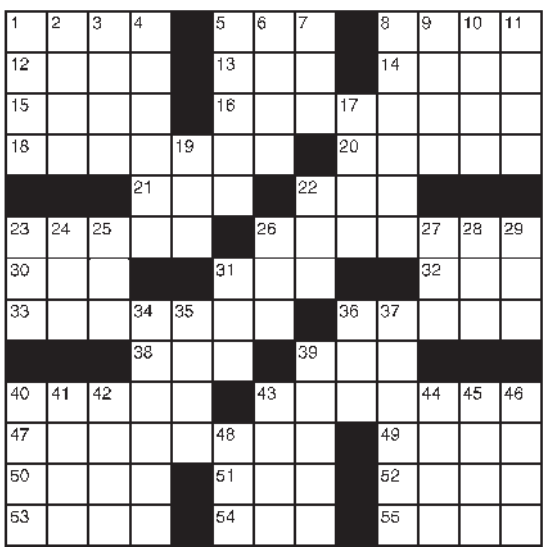
DOWN

1 "The Da Vinci —"
2 Genesis shepherd
3 Little, in La Scala
4 Humankind
5 Without exception
6 Puncturing tools
7 Work with
8 Frightens
9 Tall and thin
10 "Veni, vidi, —"
11 Mideast gulf
17 Actor Sinise
19 Chow down
22 Pub order
23 Service charge
24 Under the weather
25 Lucy of "Elementary"
26 Ovum
27 Hosp. area
28 Joan of —
29 "Science guy" Bill
31 Reply (Abbr.)
34 007 portrayer Timothy
35 Neil Diamond's "— Said"
36 Salt source
37 Critter
39 Commercial cow
40 Father (Fr.)
41 Coaster
42 Staffer
43 French 101 verb
44 "Peter Pan" dog
45 The "E" of "B.P.O.E"
46 Doc's "Now!"
48 Cutting tool

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	H	U	E	■	M	O	T	■	S	T	I	R
M	A	H	C	■	I	L	E	■	Y	O	G	A
O	R	A	L	■	N	E	X	I	U	O	C	H
G	E	L	A	T	I	■	T	U	N	D	R	A
■	■	■	I	A	M	S	■	T	E	L	■	■
D	O	C	R	M	A	T	S	■	Y	E	A	H
O	W	I	■	P	R	O	P	S	■	O	D	E
I	F	I	A	■	T	R	A	P	D	O	O	R
■	■	V	H	S	■	E	R	I	E	■	■	■
A	C	E	O	J	T	■	K	N	E	A	D	S
D	O	G	R	B	C	L	L	■	D	R	A	T
A	M	Y	S	■	A	Y	E	■	C	L	L	A
Y	A	L	E	■	L	E	S	■	D	O	I	T

Yesterday's answer 8-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shani Davis, 37; Debi Mazar, 55; John Slattery, 57; Dawnn Lewis, 58.

Happy Birthday: You can settle outstanding differences by looking at the past and present logically and choosing a practical path moving forward. You have more opportunity than you realize, and with research and intelligent deductions, you will come up with the best way to move forward at a price you can afford. Romance is highlighted, and wisdom and discipline are required. Your numbers are 4, 18, 20, 26, 33, 38, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Look for your own opportunities. Learn from experience and people you have dealt with to figure out the best way to get what you want. Make a change because it's what you want, not because someone is twisting your arm. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Concentrate on what you want, and refuse to let what others do or say make you think you are missing out on something. Hard work is what it takes to succeed. Pay your dues and see what happens. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Pay less attention to fair-weather friends and give more homage to those who genuinely care about you. A partnership should be looked at carefully. Equality will be a must before you enter into a personal or professional union. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Put your cash in a safe place so you don't feel you have to pay for something you don't want or cannot afford. Lean toward people and situations that mellow you out, not what adds to your stress. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't jump to conclusions. Right decisions take time, and an offer needs to be looked at carefully. An opportunity is of use only if it is something you want. Don't sell yourself short or take the path of least resistance because of someone else. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A change is in order, but first check out what's available, what's affordable and what makes the most sense long-term. You stand to gain if you do what's best, not what someone else is trying to coax you into doing. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Concentrate on physical challenges, not mental, and you will gain respect and satisfaction moving forward. If you let someone make decisions for you, disappointment will set in. Do what needs to be done. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Put everything in its place. Being organized will help you avoid emotional frustration when dealing with people who are inconsistent or unpredictable. Don't let someone from your past disrupt your life or cause confusion. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Look for a financial opportunity, but don't feel the need to take part in something risky or that involves too many people. Look for investments that will improve your standard of living. Romance is highlighted and will enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take care of your affairs without offering too much detail to outsiders. A change at home should encourage saving money, cutbacks and projects that will lower your utility bills. Know where you stand, and make positive adjustments. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* An emotional situation can be resolved if you compromise. Consider what's important to you as well as to those affected by the choices you make. Giving everyone a little will ensure you get what you want as well. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Do what you can for others, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Too much of anything will lead to trouble and cause a ruckus that will send a red flag to someone in a position of power. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, energetic and generous. You are hardworking and flexible.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9		3		2		5	
5						8		6
		7			9		4	
7				1		6		3
8		3		6				4
	6		4			9		
3		4						8
	5		2		6		1	

Difficulty Level ★★

8/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	4	5	9	2	6	1	7	8
7	1	2	3	5	8	4	6	9
6	9	8	7	1	4	3	5	2
9	3	1	2	4	5	7	8	6
5	2	7	8	6	3	9	4	1
4	8	6	1	7	9	2	3	5
1	5	9	6	3	7	8	2	4
8	6	3	4	9	2	5	1	7
2	7	4	5	8	1	6	9	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CARDI B — Solution: 8 letters

A	P	M	P	M	A	R	L	E	N	I	S	O	K	G
J	L	O	L	S	O	N	G	W	R	I	T	E	R	Y
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Yesterday's Answer: Que Sera Sera

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(30) **CARPENTER/LABOR** $9.76 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Help carpenters by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Clean work areas, machines, or equipment, to maintain a clean and safe job site. Fasten timbers or lumber with glue, screws, pegs, or nails and install hardware. Perform tie spacing layout and measure, mark, drill or cut. Select tools, equipment, or materials from storage and transport items to work site. Drill holes in timbers or lumber.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Interior Designer** - $8.48 to 9.32 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Plan, design, and furnish interiors of residential, commercial, or industrial buildings. Formulate design which is practical, aesthetic, and conducive to intended purposes, such as raising productivity, selling merchandise, or improving life style. May specialize in a particular field, style, or phase of interior design. Design plans to be safe and to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Coordinate with other professionals, such as contractors, architects, engineers, and lumbers, to ensure job success. Inspect construction work on site to ensure its adherence to the design plans. Use computer-aided drafting (CAD) and related software to produce construction documents. Advise client on interior design factors such as space planning, layout and use of furnishings or equipment, and color coordination.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Bachelor's Degree;
At least 24 months experience;
Must have knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in the production of precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings, and models

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) **MATERIAL CONTROL MANAGER** $9.02 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Weigh, measure, and check materials, supplies, and equipment for the purpose of keeping relevant records. Duties are primarily clerical by nature. Manage, collect and keep record of samples of products or materials. Document quantity, quality, type, weight, test result data, and value of materials or products to maintain shipping, receiving, and production records and files. Weigh or measure materials, equipment, or products to maintain relevant records, using volume meters, scales, rules, or calipers. Collect or prepare measurement, weight, or identification labels and attach them to products. Examine products or materials, parts, subassemblies, and packaging for damage, defects, or shortages, using specification sheets, gauges, and standards charts. Signal or instruct other workers to weigh, move, or check products

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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We have text. We have photos.
Now we also have videos.
Check out the video section of the *Saipan Tribune* website.

YCO Corporation is looking for the following position:

Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
Knowledge in equipment maintenance, repairing, troubleshooting, equipment selection or determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job. Physically fit, with valid drivers license. Must be at least 24 months work related experience with high school diploma. Salary: $8.11 to 9.00/hr. Monday to Friday, 36hr/week, 7 hrs/day. This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opening intent to fill.

Accounting Associate
Atleast 24 months work related experience with High School Diploma, Proficient in microsoft software programs and accounting software such as quick book and peachtree. Knowledge on US generally accepted accounting principles. Comply with Federal State and company policies procedures and Regulations. Compile statistical, financial, accounting or auditing reports and tables pertaining to such cash receipts, expenditures, accounts payables procedures. Proficient in the English language (verbal, written and reading). Active listening, critical thinking. With Certificate of employment. The required employment certificate will be applied equally to both U.S. workers and CW workers. Salary: $9.87/hr. 36 hrs./week, 7 hrs./day. From Monday to Friday. This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opportunity intent to fill with this position.

Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Driver
Required commercial driver license, physically fit with truck driver certificate. Knowledge in record operational or production data, record service or repair activities. Atleast 12 months work related experience with High School Diploma. Salary: $8.00/hr. /hr.36 hrs./week,6 hrs./day Monday to Saturday This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opportunity intent to fill with this position.

Auto Mechanics/Technician
At least 24 months working related experience with High School diploma. Knowledge in repairing, troubleshooting opertation and control, ability of critical thinking and judgement and decision making. Knowledge in sales and marketing of automotive items. Knowledge of machines and tools, including their design, uses, repair and maintenance. Knowledge in customer and personal service. Must have a updated drivers license, physically fit with auto mechanic certificate equal to both US worker and CW-1 worker. Salary: $8.02 to 8.30/hr, 36hr per week, 7 hrs./day. Monday to Friday. This job opportunity is temporary, full time position. There is one (1) job opening the employer to fill.

Applicant may submit application to 2nd flr Yumul bldg. Mnsgr Guerrero Rd Chalan Kiya Saipan MP 96950 or email to ycocorporationlabor@yahoo.com. From Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. Tel (670)233-3112/3.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(4) **CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN** 14.18 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing, and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of engineering staff or physical scientists. Calculate dimensions, square footage, profile and component specifications, and material quantities using calculator or computer. Read and review project blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects and to ensure conformance to specifications. Confer with supervisor to determine project details such as plan preparation, acceptance testing, and evaluation of field conditions. Analyze proposed site factors and design maps, graphs, tracings, and diagrams to illustrate findings.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Associate Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience in bookkeeping, accounting or auditing clerk;
- Knowledge in practical application of Engineering Science and Technology

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **STEEL WORKERS** $14.53 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Raise, place, and unite iron or steel girders, columns, and other structural members to form completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Read specifications or blueprints to determine the locations, quantities, or sizes of materials required. Connect columns, beams, and girders with bolts, following blueprints and instructions from supervisors. Bolt aligned structural steel members in position for permanent riveting, bolting, or welding into place. Fasten structural steel members to hoist cables, using chains, cables, or rope. Hoist steel beams, girders, or columns into place, using cranes or signaling hoisting equipment operators to lift and position structural steel members.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF SINOPAN INTERNATIONAL LLC

Notice is hereby given that Sinopan International LLC., a corporation established and operating in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will cease operation effective immediately.

Pursuant thereto, all creditors and persons with claims against the corporation are hereby notified to present their respective claim in writing to the corporation at the address set forth below.

SINOPAN INTERNATIONAL LLC
PMB 771 P.O. BOX 10003
All claims not filed within the time required
by law will forever be barred.

Rumin Huang
Contact Person

YCO Corporation is looking for the following position:

Hardware Sales Associate
Qualification Requirements: Knowledge of business and management involve customer service, production methods, Knowledge in computer system. e.g data base, word, excel, rock solid, POS and other computer software. Familiar Hardware products. Good in oral comprehension, sales and marketing. 12 months work related experience with High School diploma. Salary: $8.57/hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deductions all required by CNMI and Federal Law. From Mon-Sat. 36 hr/week 6 hr/day.

Office Supervisor
Qualification Requirements: Knowledge in Computer systems and Electronics such as peach tree, rock solid, microsoft excel, word, access, power point, data base and computer system. Knowledge of business management involve in strategic planning, human resources, leadership technique, production method. Good in customer and personal service. Ability in oral comprehension & expression and written comprehension. With Employment Certificate as office supervisor. Employment certificate will be applied equally to both U.S. Workers and CW-1 workers. At least 24 months work related experience with Associate Degree. Salary $12.41/hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deduction all required by CNMI and Federal Law. From Mon-Fri. 36hr/week/7 hr /day.

Dept Hardware Sale Supervisor
Qualification Requirement: Good in customer service, marketing expertise, good in computer e.g data base, rock solid system, excel, word, and other computer program, Familiar in hardware product, knowledge of business and management principle, leadership, production methods, Service oriented. Physically fit, Can able to drive. Knowledge in inventory system. Salary: $8.55-9.20/hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deduction: All required by CNMI and Federal Law. Frm: Mon-Sun 7 hrs a day(flexible time and day). 36 hrs /week.

Electrician
Qualification Requirements: At least 24 months work related experience with Associate Degree. Knowledge in all aspect of electrical .eg. installation, plan, lay out, repair, trouble shooting, inspect electrical or electronics system for defects. Good in computer system, data base, Microsoft excel, word, peach tree system, drafting. Knowledge in sales and marketing of electrical product. Good in customer service, with electrical license and diploma and with driver license.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **Environmental Health and Safety Manager** $10. 65 to 10.65 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Review, evaluate, and analyze work environments and design programs and procedures to control, eliminate, and prevent disease or injury caused by chemical, physical, and biological agents or ergonomic factors. May conduct inspections and enforce adherence to laws and regulations governing the health and safety of individuals. May be employed in the public or private sector. Includes environmental protection officers. Order suspension of activities that pose threats to workers' health or safety. Investigate accidents to identify causes or to determine how such accidents might be prevented in the future. Recommend measures to help protect workers from potentially hazardous work methods, processes, or materials. Inspect or evaluate workplace environments, equipment, or practices to ensure compliance with safety standards and government regulations. Develop or maintain hygiene programs, such as noise surveys, continuous atmosphere monitoring, ventilation surveys, or asbestos management plans.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's Degree;
- At least 24 months experience in safety standards;
- Must possess various safety training certificates.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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(04) **Warehouse worker** - $7.93 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Receive, store, and issue materials, equipment, and other items from stockroom, warehouse, or storage yard. Keep records and compile stock reports. Pack and unpack items to be stocked on shelves in stockrooms, warehouses, or storage yards. Store items in an orderly and accessible manner in warehouses, tool rooms, supply rooms, or other areas. Examine and inspect stock items for wear or defects, reporting any damage to supervisors. Receive and count stock items, and record data manually or using a computer. Mark stock items using identification tags, stamps, electric marking tools, or other labeling equipment.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Graduate;
At least 12 months experience;
Must have knowledge in the inventory of construction materials and tools.

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Reed delivers clutch putts to win FedEx Cup opener

AP
Patrick Reed poses with his trophy after winning The Northern Trust golf tournament at Liberty National Golf Course, Sunday, Aug. 11, 2019, in Jersey City, N.J.

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)— The harder he worked, the farther Patrick Reed felt he was falling behind. That's when the people around him sought drastic measures by making him leave his golf clubs alone for 10 whole days.

Recharged from his pre-summer break, Reed finally found the result he was looking for Sunday in The Northern Trust, and it couldn't have come at a better time.

He delivered key shots on three straight holes on the back nine at Liberty National —two for birdie, one for par—to overtake Jon Rahm, hold off Abraham Ancer, close with a 2-under 69 and win the FedEx Cup opener.

It was his first victory in 16 months over 41 tournaments worldwide dating to the 2018 Masters.

"The longer that time period is in between wins, it just makes it tougher," Reed said. "I was pushing too hard and was trying harder and all of a sudden, it was going the wrong direction. My team was smart enough to tell me to back off, shut it down and reset and get clear, because we can finish the year right. We can get a couple Ws, and no better place that starting the first week of the playoffs."

Points are quadrupled in the PGA Tour postseason, so the victory vaulted Reed from No. 50 to No. 2. His place in the Tour Championship is secure. His odds of the $15 million prize are greatly increased.

It still wasn't enough for him to get in the top eight qualifiers for the Presidents Cup, to be decided after next week. Reed went to No. 12 and he would have to win the BMW Championship next week to qualify.

Even so, it was the kind of victory to at least get the attention of U.S. captain Tiger Woods.

Reed finished at 16-under 268 and won for the seventh time in his career on the PGA Tour.

Ancer felt like a winner when it was over. He also played bogey-free over the final 12 holes, and his birdie on the 17th gave him hope. But his approach to the 18th came down below a ridge, and his long birdie putt to force a playoff went some 6 feet by the cup. He made that to finish alone in second, his best PGA Tour finish.

That was enough to send him from No. 67 to No. 8, with more perks that he could count.

Ancer is a lock to make it to the Tour Championship in two weeks, meaning he earns his first spot in the Masters. He wrapped up a spot on the International team for the Presidents Cup, making him the first Mexican in the event.

"When I finished, I was a little down because I didn't get it done and I feel like I played good," Ancer said. "But then getting all this news that I'm going to the Tour Championship, playing all the majors, going to Masters, all that, I was like, 'Man, this is not too bad.' I'm extremely happy, proud of the way I performance. I still obviously want that W, but really proud with all the boxes that I checked off today."

Rahm wasn't quite that happy.

He made a 12-foot birdie putt on No. 12 and reached the par-5 13th in two to set up another birdie, giving him a two-shot lead. And then it all fell apart for the Spaniard. He was on the wrong side of the green at the par-3 14th and three-putted for bogey from 50 feet. His tee shot narrowly found a bunker on the 15th, leaving him no shot at reaching the green, and he had to scramble for bogey from the thick grass behind the green.

Rahm never caught up, closed with a 69 and tied for third with Harold Varner III.

Reed began his move with a pitching wedge that caught the ridge at the back of the 14th green perfectly, sending it down to 8 feet for birdie. He was in thick rough right of the 15th green and looked certain to drop a shot when he holed a 10-foot putt for par. And then he pitched perfectly from 25 yards short of the 16th green to about 4 feet for birdie.

The Top 70 in the FedEx Cup advance to the BMW Championship next week at Medinah, so there were other players who took home consolation prizes. One of the strongest bids belonged to Joaquin Niemann of Chile, who was in the middle of the pack and knew it would be close.

He slammed his iron into the turf on the 15th when he hit into a bunker, such was pressure on him. Niemann made a 6-foot par save there, drove the green on the 296-yard 16th hole for birdie, saved another par on the 17th and closed with a 66.

He tied for 30th, enough to move up four spots and get the 70th spot.

Varner might have had the biggest day in that regard. He started the PGA Tour postseason at No. 102, and while he came up two shot of his first PGA Tour victory, his tie for third moved him to No. 29. That not only gets him in the BMW Championship, he has a realistic shot at East Lake.

Reed will be there, a trip that most likely began with that 10-day break in the Hamptons. He had a rental house with a manicured yard 300 yards long and 50 yards wide, ideal for hitting balls, and he didn't touch a club.

The vacation was two weeks, though. When the 10 days were up, he was at National Golf Links the next morning, drove the first green and made eagle.

Tour says it will explore pace-of-play policy

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)— The PGA Tour says it will look closer at its pace-of-play policy, which could lead to timing players who typically take a long time playing shots.

The issue has been around as long as today's generation of players has been alive.

It gained attention this week with a video of Bryson DeChambeau taking 2 minutes, 6 seconds to hit an 8-foot putt on the eighth hole Friday. That led to players criticizing DeChambeau for his pace and the tour for a policy that makes penalty shots rare.

Tyler Dennis, the tour's chief of operations, says the tour might be able to use its ShotLink technology that measures every shot to help with a solution.

"We know that the individual habits of players when they are preparing to hit a shot can quickly become a focal point in today's world, and our players and fans are very passionate about this issue," Dennis said in a story posted on the tour's website.

For more than a decade, the tour has been using ShotLink in an unofficial capacity to let players know how long they take over various shots. The time was unofficial because it was based on when the scorer recorded the shot, not when it was deemed to be his turn to hit.

"We are currently in the process of reviewing this aspect of pace of play and asking ourselves, Is there a better way to do it?' We think technology definitely plays a key role in all of this and we are thinking about new and innovative ways to use it to address these situations," Dennis said.

The only real development this week was the DeChambeau video, and he was quick to defend himself Saturday against the social media outcry.

"When people start talking to me about slow play and how I'm killing the game, I'm doing this-and-that to the game, that is complete and utter ... you-know what," he said. "That's not fair."

The current policy is for players to be timed—one minute for the first player to hit a particular shot, 40 seconds for the others—only when they fall out of position. When told they are being time, players often speed up. That's one reason penalty shot are so rare. They are assessed the second time a player gets a bad time.

Dennis mentioned other factors that go into rounds that taking too long, and rules officials for years have argued that a large field makes for too much congestion. Regular tour events typically are 156 players, meaning there are 26 threesomes for 18 holes in the morning and afternoon.

Koepka vs DeChambeau

Brooks Koepka, leader of The Accusers, and Bryson DeChambeau, poster boy for The Accused, met face-to-face Sunday morning to discuss one of golf's forever battlegrounds: Slow play.

Koepka and DeChambeau have different perspectives, but with the Statue of Liberty serving as the backdrop, here is what these fellow Americans agree on:

Yes, slow play should absolutely be penalized!

"Penalizing," DeChambeau said during an interview a few minutes after Koepka's, "I'm a huge advocate of it."

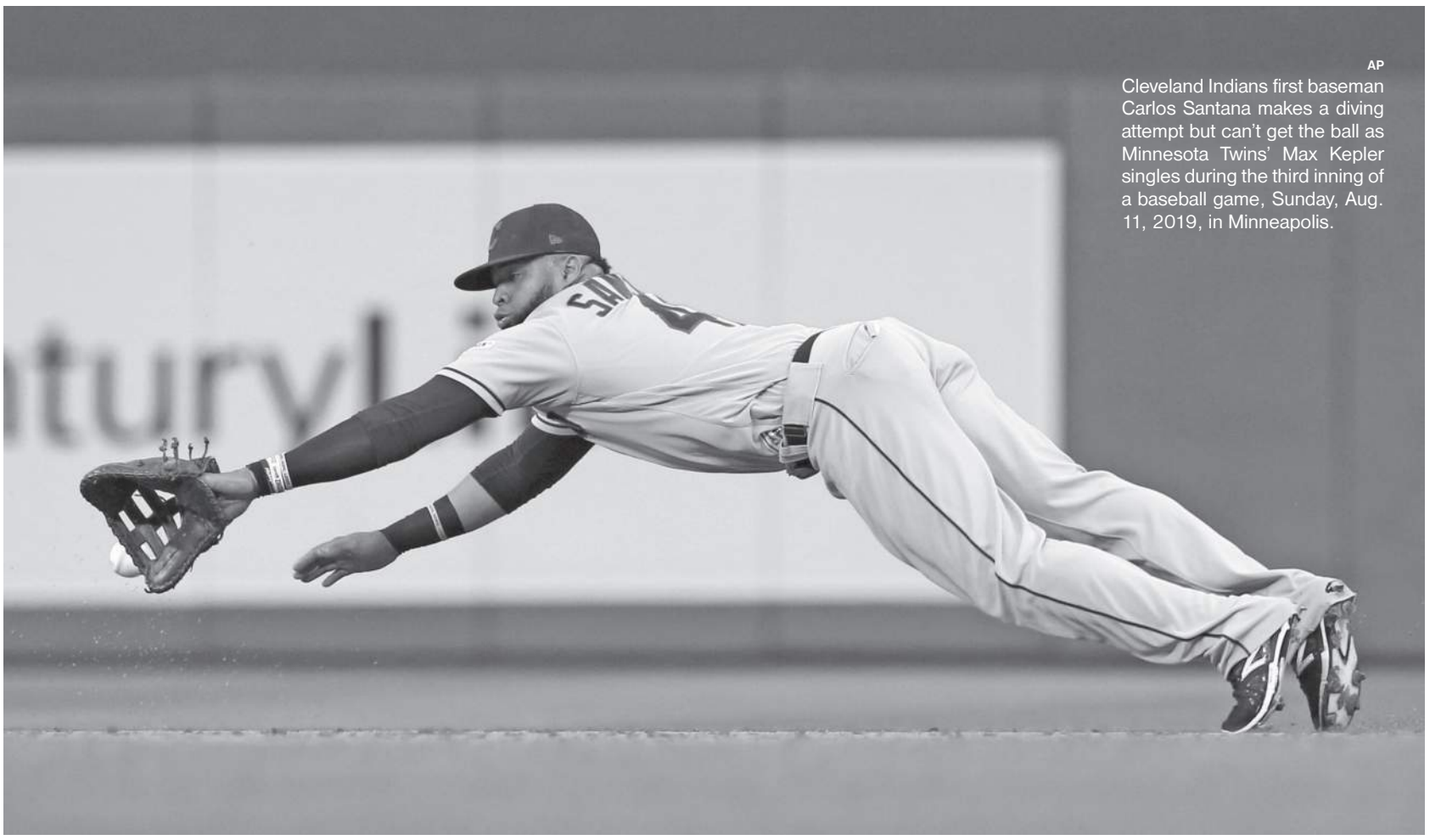
DeChambeau, 25, who hails from California and won last year's Northern Trust, approached Koepka's caddie and asked for a pre-round chat with the No. 1 player in the Official World Golf Ranking.

"He just walked up to my caddie and said he wanted to talk," Koepka explained, "so I went and found him, but I'll keep that between us."

"It was awesome. It was actually fantastic," said DeChambeau, who labeled it as a clearing of the air. "I appreciate what Brooks did. I have high respect for him because he did that."

"Everyone out here is probably a little more afraid of confrontation than in other sports," said Koepka, who anticipates further talks with DeChambeau. "I think you see that. In baseball, you see it, teammates go at each other and they're still fine. Football, same thing. Basketball, you name it, there's always been some confrontation on the team, and sometimes it helps, to figure out what the root of the problem is and start working on it."

Santana hits grand slam as Indians beat Twins



AP
Cleveland Indians first baseman Carlos Santana makes a diving attempt but can't get the ball as Minnesota Twins' Max Kepler singles during the third inning of a baseball game, Sunday, Aug. 11, 2019, in Minneapolis.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)— Carlos Santana hit a grand slam in the 10th inning, and the Cleveland Indians beat the Minnesota Twins 7-3 on Sunday to win the four-game series and forge another tie for the AL Central lead.

The Twins tied the game with four hits in a two-run ninth against Brad Hand (5-3), using a single by Luis Arraez and a double by Marwin Gonzalez to extend the game.

As pinch-runner Ehire Adrianza tried to score the winning run from first base, left fielder Tyler Naquin grabbed the ball off the bounce from the wall and zipped a throw to shortstop Francisco Lindor, whose relay home was in perfect position for catcher Kevin Plawecki to tag Adrianza with ease.

Twins closer Taylor Rogers (2-3) allowed a single, a walk and another single on a bunt by Greg Allen to load the bases with none out for Santana, who quickly erased the late-inning drama with one big swing.

The Twins and Indians play six more times, all in September.

Orioles 8, Astros 7

In Baltimore, Rio Ruiz hit a two-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning, and the Orioles stopped the Astros' eight-game win streak.

Houston scored three runs in the top of the ninth to go up 7-5 before the Orioles answered in the bottom half against Roberto Osuna (3-3). After Chris Davis hit a sacrifice fly, Chance Sisco was at first base when Ruiz launched a 2-2 pitch over the right-field wall.

Coming off a 23-2 defeat less than 24 hours earlier, Baltimore took the lead in the fifth against 2011 Cy Young Award winner Justin Verlander, blew the advantage and then mounted an improbable rally to end a five-game skid.

Nationals 7, Mets 4

In New York, Asdrubal Cabrera hit a tiebreaking two-run double against his former team, and the Nationals stopped the Mets' eight-game win streak.

Nationals star Juan Soto was injured on Cabrera's bases-loaded hit in the seventh inning. Soto went from first to third but sprained his right ankle after getting a late stop sign from third base coach Bob Henley. The team said he is day to day after X-rays were negative.

Victor Robles replaced Soto and homered off Edwin Díaz in the ninth.

Sean Doolittle pitched a perfect ninth for his 26th save two nights after blowing a three-run lead in the final inning.

Yankees 1, Blue Jays 0

In Toronto, Masahiro Tanaka and Aroldis Chapman combined on a four-hitter for New York, and Brett Gardner hit an RBI double in the fifth inning.

Tanaka (8-6) allowed three hits, struck out four and walked none. The right-hander was pulled after Brandon Drury singled to begin the ninth.

Chapman came on to face pinch-hitter Vladimir Guerrero Jr., who fell behind 0-2, worked back to a full count, hit a foul ball off the fifth deck and finally grounded into a double play to end the 13-pitch encounter.

Chapman gave up a single to Bo Bichette, and then fanned Cavan Biggio to earn his AL-leading 31st save.

Dodgers 9, Diamondbacks 3

In Los Angeles, Justin Turner hit two of Los Angeles' four homers and Hyun-Jin Ryu pitched seven scoreless innings of five-hit ball.

Turner and Cody Bellinger hit back-to-back homers in the first inning as the Dodgers finished 8-2 on a 10-game homestand.

Ryu (12-2) made a seamless return from a 10-day stint on the injured list with minor neck stiffness. The majors' ERA leader didn't give up a hit until the fourth inning, and he pitched out of jams in the fifth and sixth while lowering his ERA to 1.45.

Eduardo Escobar and Nick Ahmed homered for Arizona. Mike Leake (9-9) was charged with eight runs in five innings.

Cubs 6, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Kris Bryant capped Chicago's four-run seventh with a three-run homer, and the Cubs topped the Reds for a split of their four-game series.

Ian Happ added a solo drive in the eighth as the NL Central leaders recovered after falling behind 3-0 in the fifth. David Phelps (1-0) pitched a perfect sixth for the win, and Pedro Strop got three outs for his 10th save.

Bryant, Happ, Jason Heyward and Nicholas Castellanos each had two hits for the Cubs, who lost 10-1 on Saturday.

Eugenio Suaréz homered for the third straight game and rookie sensation Aristides Aquino had a run-scoring single, but Cincinnati's bullpen faltered after All-Star Luis Castillo was pulled in the seventh.

Braves 5, Marlins 4

In Miami, Ronald Acuña Jr. hit his 33rd homer and sixth in as many games, helping Atlanta get the win.

Ender Inciarte hit a three-run shot for the NL East-leading Braves. Mike Foltynewicz (4-5), making his second start since being recalled from Triple-A Gwinnett, allowed four runs in six innings.

Luke Jackson pitched a scoreless ninth despite allowing three hits, earning his 18th save in 25 chances.

Rangers 1, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, Mike Minor struck out 11 in eight innings, and Texas avoided a series sweep.

Minor (11-6) allowed four hits and walked one. José Leclerc finished the four-hitter for his eighth save, securing Texas' second win in in six games.

Milwaukee star Christian Yelich missed his fifth straight start due to back stiffness, but the reigning NL MVP batted for reliever Alex Claudio in the eighth. The sold-out crowd of 44,411 greeted Yelich with M-V-P chants but the slugger struck out.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa's sacrifice fly off Jordan Lyles (7-8) in the seventh accounted for the game's only run.

Cardinals 11, Pirates 9

In St. Louis, Lane Thomas hit a go-ahead grand slam for St. Louis in the seventh inning.

Paul Goldschmidt and Dexter Fowler also homered as the Cardinals rallied from an 8-4 deficit to sweep the three-game series and move into second in the NL Central, two games behind the Cubs.

John Gant (8-0) tossed a scoreless seventh for the win. Andrew Miller earned his fourth save in six tries.

Josh Bell had two homers and four RBIs for Pittsburgh, which has lost eight straight. Pablo Reyes added a solo shot in the ninth.

Rays 1, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Tampa Bay's Ryan Yarbrough came within an out of his first career shutout, and Eric Sogard homered.

Yarbrough (11-3) retired his final 14 batters and struck out eight while throwing 8 2/3 innings of three-hit ball. He was replaced after 99 pitches by Emilio Pagan, who retired pinch-hitter Omar Narváez for his third save of the series and 12th overall.

Tampa Bay has won 10 of 12 to remain in position for the second AL wild card.

Athletics 2, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Chris Bassitt threw seven sharp innings and Matt Olson homered, leading Oakland to the victory.

Bassitt (8-5) permitted four hits, struck out seven and walked two. Liam Hendriks struck out two in the ninth for his 12th save in 17 opportunities.

Chicago right-hander Lucas Giolito (12-6) struck out a career-high 13 in six innings. The All-Star allowed two runs and five hits.

The White Sox had won five of seven.

Angels 5, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Anthony Bemboom hit a go-ahead single in the 10th inning after Kole Calhoun's solo homer tied it in the eighth, leading the Angels to a split of the four-game series.

Shohei Ohtani had three hits with a two-run single for Los Angeles, which won for only the second time in 10 games. The Angels halted an eight-game losing streak Saturday. Hansel Robles (4-0) got four outs for the victory.

Christian Vázquez hit a two-run homer for Boston, which rallied from an early 3-0 hole.

Rockies 8, Padres 3

In San Diego, Yonder Alonso hit his 100th career homer during Colorado's four-run sixth inning, and the Rockies snapped a five-game losing streak.

The Rockies won for just the seventh time in 26 games. They are 13-31 since June 21.

Colorado's German Márquez (11-5) permitted three runs and five hits in eight innings. He also hit an RBI single in the sixth.

Francisco Mejía homered in the second for San Diego, and rookie Josh Naylor connected in the third. Craig Stammen (6-6) got the loss.

Royals 10, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Hunter Dozier and Jorge Soler each homered twice, and Kansas City earned a split of the four-game series between the worst teams in the AL Central.

It was Dozier's third career multihomer game, all of which have come on the current road trip. Soler went deep four times in the final three games of the series, and Whit Merrifield led off the game with a home run for the second time in three days.

The Royals won their second in a row after losing six of seven. Last-place Detroit fell to 7-23 since the All-Star break.

Giants 9, Phillies 6

In San Francisco, Kevin Pillar hit a tiebreaking triple that scored Evan Longoria with two out in the bottom of the eighth inning, closer Will Smith followed with a two-run single in his first career at-bat and the Giants rallied to beat Philadelphia.

Scooter Gennett homered into McCovey Cove and Mike Yastrzemski also went deep to help the Giants take three of four from the Phillies. Longoria had three hits and Pillar had two.

César Hernández had three hits and two RBIs for Philadelphia. Bryce Harper drove in a pair of runs.

Longoria singled leading off the eighth against José Alvarez (3-3) and went to second on a wild pitch with two outs.

Nadal sweeps foe, wins 5th Roger Cup title

MONTREAL (AP)—Rafael Nadal won his fifth Rogers Cup title, beating Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 6-0 on in just 70 minutes Sunday at breezy IGA Stadium.

The 33-year-old Nadal won the event for the third time in Montreal. The first came in 2005 at age 19 over Andre Agassi, and the second in 2013. Nadal won in Toronto in 2008 and 2018.

"I played a solid match, my best match of the week so far without a doubt," Nadal said. "I did a lot of things well—changing directions, changing rhythms."

The second-ranked Spanish star won his 83rd singles title and third of the year, following clay victories in Rome and at the French Open. He extended his tour record for Masters 1000 titles to 35, two more than top-ranked Novak Djokovic.

"He was playing very well during the whole week. So for me, it was important in the beginning that he doesn't take advantage, because finals are always a little bit more difficult for everyone," Nadal said. "I've played a lot of these. I know beginnings can be tricky, especially against a great player like him but especially when a player like him is playing with a lot of confidence like he was playing during the whole week."

Medvedev, from Russia, was seeded eighth. The match was his first against Nadal.

"I knew how it's going to be," Medvedev said. "I was kind of ready for it. Then didn't manage to probably show my best tennis, but at the same time Rafa was incredible today. I need to see the match on the TV to say for sure, but congrats to him. I need to do better next time."

AP

Spain's Rafael Nadal returns to Russia's Daniil Medvedev during the finals of the Rogers Cup tennis tournament in Montreal, Sunday, Aug. 11, 2019.

Nadal had a walkover in the semifinals Saturday when Gael Monfils withdrew because of an ankle injury.

Spain's Marcel Granollers and Argentina's Horacio Zeballos won the doubles title in their first event together. They beat Robin Haase and Wesley Koolhof of the Netherlands, 7-5, 7-5.

Murray returns

Meanwhile, Andy Murray smiled as he walked off the court after a brisk practice session, pain-free and moving better all the time. Retirement? Out of mind for now.

Instead, the three-time major champion is back to playing singles at a Masters event.

Murray is the first-day focus at the Western & Southern Open. A painful exit at the Australian Open left him thinking the end of his career was in sight. He had a second hip operation in January that implanted metal, eliminated the pain and totally changed his outlook.

His against-the-odds comeback takes another step when he faces Richard Gasquet in the first round Monday afternoon. A lot of challenges remain before he's ready to play at a high level again.

"That's the situation I'm in, and I would have signed up for being in this position I'm in six months ago, absolutely," said Murray, wearing a shirt that said "BELIEVE" across the front. "Hopefully it makes for some exciting early round matches."

Once the surgery eliminated the hip pain that had hobbled him for a long time, the 32-year-old Murray chose to make a comeback. He played doubles in several tournaments, including Wimbledon with Serena Williams and the Citi Open with brother Jamie .

After practicing singles the past few weeks, Murray felt good enough to give it a go. The Western & Southern Open offered him a wild-card slot, and he'll use the tournament near Cincinnati as a gauge.

"I have zero pain," Murray said. "I'm not expecting to be moving as well as I used to, but I still think I can probably move better than I am now. But that will take time. I started playing singles a couple weeks ago.

"There's still some improvement to come from my hip operation as well. So in the next few months, I'll build up to that."

His singles return reunites the "Big Four" for the first time since the Australian Open. Defending champion Novak Djokovic, seven-time champion Roger Federer and 2013 champion Rafael Nadal also are in the tournament. Nadal won the Rogers Cup on Sunday in Montreal.

Djokovic won Cincinnati for the first time last year after five finals losses, beating Federer to claim the only ATP Masters 1000 title that had eluded him. Djokovic is the first singles player to win all nine events.

The Big Four has dominated in Cincinnati, winning 11 of the past 14 titles. The Big Four also has claimed 11 straight Grand Slams and 16 of the past 17, with Djokovic beating Federer in a fifth-set tiebreaker at Wimbledon last month.

"We're still playing our best in the Grand Slams and events that matter most," Djokovic said Sunday.

Murray is a long way from the form that helped him win the U.S. Open in 2012 and Wimbledon titles in 2013 and 2016, but there's hope ahead. He's hoping to get back to playing singles regularly on the tour. He's also pondering doubles in the 2020 Olympics with his brother.

After seeing how things go in Cincinnati, he'll decide whether to enter another tournament later this year to continue rebuilding his game.

"Obviously I'll find out on the court tomorrow if I have doubts about my movement and how my hip and stuff is feeling, but I've done what I could to make that easy on myself," Murray said. "There's nothing for me to worry about, but I know it's easy to say that but when you get on the court, psychologically it can be tricky."

In the two opening matches on the men's side Sunday, 11th-seeded John Isner served 27 aces while beating Dusan Lajovic 7-6 (3), 1-6, 7-5, getting his only break point of the match to finish it. Also, Alex De Minaur beat Marco Cecchinato 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-2.

Serena sparks US Open fear after finale breakdown

TORONTO (AP)—Bianca Andreescu became the first Canadian to win the Rogers Cup in 50 years when Serena Williams retired because of an injury Sunday.

Andreescu was up 3-1 in the first set when Williams called for a medical timeout.

Less than a minute later, the chair umpire announced that the 37-year-old Williams was retiring from the match, handing Andreescu her second WTA Premier title of the season.

Williams, who hopes to chase a record-equalling 24th career Grand Slam title at the US Open, seemed fine on court but suddenly sat crying in her chair before deciding to retire 19 minutes into the match.

An emotional Williams, who struggled to get the words out, told the crowd she tried to battle through, but couldn't.

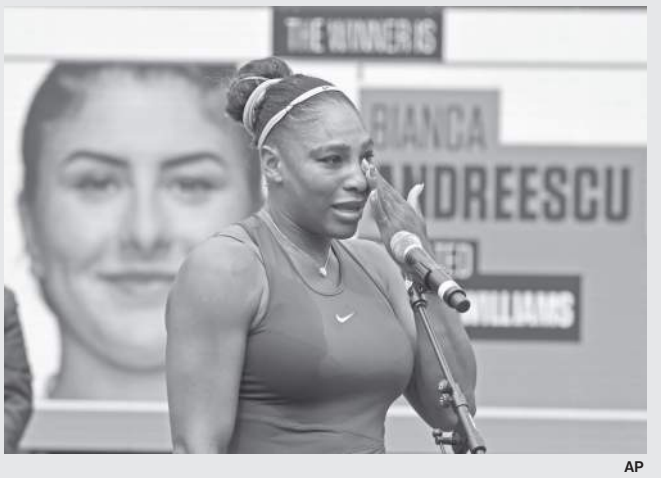
She said: "I'm sorry I couldn't do it today. I tried but I just couldn't do it.

"It's been a tough year but we'll keep going."

Williams, whose competitive action this year have been severely limited because of knee issues, declared herself pain-free ahead of the tournament, which she was hoping to use as a springboard for the rest of her hardcourt swing.

But the six-time US Open champion, still without a title since returning from maternity leave in 2018, now faces her latest setback with the year's final Grand Slam just two weeks away.

Williams' retirement was the last of several high-profile injuries at the Rogers Cup. Fourth-seeded Simona Halep withdrew from her quarterfinal matchup with Marie Bouzkova. On the men's side, Milos Raonic retired after two sets against Felix Auger-Aliassime in a much-anticipated all-Canadian matchup. No. 16 seed Gael Monfils then withdrew before his semifinal against world No. 1 Rafael Nadal.



AP

Serena Williams reacts after she had to retire during the finals of the Rogers Cup tennis tournament against Canada's Bianca Andreescu in Toronto, Sunday, Aug. 11, 2019.

The 19-year-old Andreescu, from nearby Mississauga, has victories over seven of the top 10 players in the world. Her world ranking will rise from 27th to 14th on Monday. Her previous high was 22nd.

"I'm speechless right now. I'm the first Canadian who got to the finals and has won this tournament since 1969," Andreescu said after being presented with the Rogers Cup trophy in an on-court ceremony. "This been a dream come true, really.

"This week has not been easy. I've had many, many tough matches."

Andreescu returned this week from a right shoulder injury that sidelined her since the French Open in May. She won in Indian Wells in March for her first WTA Tour title.

"What I've been through the past two months has not been easy," Andreescu said when addressing fans. "I kept telling myself 'never give up.' I'm trying to look at my injury not as a setback but more of a challenge. I tried to embrace it as much as I can."

Andreescu had been on the court more than any other player at this year's Rogers Cup at 10 hours, 54 minutes heading into the match against Williams.

Faye Urban of Windsor, Ontario, beat Vancouver's Vicki Berner in the 1969 final, when the tournament was still played on clay courts and called the Canadian Open.

Vikings get kicker Vedvik in trade with Ravens

EAGAN, Minn. (AP)—Seeking a solution for their longtime kicking trouble, the Minnesota Vikings have acquired specialist Kaare Vedvik in a trade with the Baltimore Ravens.

Vedvik has kicked and punted for Baltimore, which was set at those positions with standouts Justin Tucker and Sam Koch. The Ravens announced on Sunday they obtained an unspecified draft pick in the deal, pending a physical exam for Vedvik, and the Vikings released veteran long snapper Kevin McDermott later to make room.

Vedvik was expendable to the Ravens because of the consistency and excellence of Tucker and Koch, and the league-wide interest in the native of Norway and former Marshall University kicker and punter increased after Vedvik went 4 for 4 on field goals in Baltimore's first preseason game on Thursday. One was from 55 yards, and Vedvik also made a pair of extra points and punted twice for a 55.5-yard average.

The Ravens announced the trade just minutes before Vikings coach Mike Zimmer spoke to reporters. He declined to acknowledge the deal.

"If we indeed made a trade, it's to try to get better guys, wherever we do that," Zimmer said.

Minnesota currently has veteran kicker Dan Bailey, who missed seven field-goal attempts last season with a career-worst 75% conversation rate, and punter Matt Wile. By cutting the incumbent McDermott, the Vikings have turned over the long snapper role to rookie Austin Cutting, a seventh-round draft pick from Air Force. They've been trying different holders in camp, too, creating more instability in a kicking unit that has struggled often during Zimmer's five-plus-year tenure.

Bailey connected on all four of his extra-point attempts and didn't have a field-goal try in the first preseason game on Friday.

"Honestly, I really like Dan Bailey," Zimmer said. "I think he's a very professional, mature kid. We've been having some issues with the three, the snap, hold, kick kind of thing. And having two long snappers, I think that's added to it a little bit because the timing is different. The holding we're working on quite a bit. I like Dan."

Wile, who was the holder last year, was tied for ninth in the NFL in 2018 with a 41.5-yard net punting average. He punted twice Friday for a 42.5-yard average.

"The first punt was inside the 20, but not by much," Zimmer said. "I think he should have got it closer to the end zone on that one. I think he's been better this camp. Directionally, he still needs to work on going to his left. But I think he's done better this camp."

Vedvik spent the entire 2018 season on the non-football injury list for the Ravens after he suffered serious injuries to his head and face as the victim of an apparent assault the day before final cuts were made. He told police then he didn't remember what happened.

"A lot more emotional than I thought it was going to be," Vedvik told the team's website after Baltimore's game on Thursday. "A lot of anticipation. It's been a long year building up to come back to this moment again. I love football. I love sports. Getting back on the field, it's a different feeling."

AP

In this Aug. 8, 2019, file photo, Baltimore Ravens' Kaare Vedvik (6) kicks the ball against the Jacksonville Jaguars during the first half of an NFL football preseason game in Baltimore.

49ers lose OL Shon Coleman

Meanwhile, the San Francisco 49ers tackle Shon Coleman will be placed on season-ending injury reserve with a serious injury to his right leg suffered in the exhibition opener.

Coleman had surgery Sunday for a broken fibula and dislocated ankle suffered in the first quarter of Saturday night's 17-9 victory over the Dallas Cowboys. Coach Kyle Shahanan said Coleman will be placed on injured reserve Monday and the team plans to bring in tackles to work out to fill his spot on the roster.

CONNIE'S

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plus points each in the third and fourth periods. However, his one-man show was not enough to overhaul the big deficit, while Connie's BBQ still spread the wealth in the second half to maintain its safe distance en route to its second victory in as many games.

Cabang paced Connie's BBQ with his 25 points, while Darwin Barbo added 12, and Esmores, and Camacho contributed 11 each. Rueda had a game-high 39 markers for RNV Construction.

In last Thursday's game, Saipan Adventure fired at least 20 points in each of the four quarters to dominate IT&E Light.

Randy Mungcal top-scored for Saipan Adventure with his 22 markers, while Jun Alipio, John Morales, Alex Ocampo, and Jhon Singca also finished in double figures, recording 17, 15, 17, and 10, respectively. Bogs Dayrit led IT&E Light with his 17 markers.

Friday Game

Connie's BBQ 82—Cabang 25, Barbo 12, Camacho 11, Esmores 11, Echavez 9, Dayao 6, Bongalan 4.

RNV Construction 74—Rueda 39, Mortos 17, Odicta 11, Tagle 2, Corong 2, Padulina 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-24, 46-26, 63-48, 82-74.

Thursday Game

Saipan Adventure 93—Mungcal 20, Alipio 17, Morales 15, Ocampo 14, Singca 10, Flores 8, Almario 8, Maesa 4.

IT&E Light 66—Dayrit 17, Madreo 14, Henry 13, Biado 8, Nuguid 6, Gotengco 3, Carongan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-19, 45-37, 68-52, 93-66.

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The Top 3 finishers received cash prizes, while the No. 4 and 5 placers got in-kind prizes during the awards presentation led by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, DFS Saipan vice president for store operations Milan Rabold, 2019 Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto, and tournament chair Ben Babauta.

Meanwhile, Henry Liang, Joel Hocog, Suryong Kim, Nick Sablan, Chang Hee Yoo, and Mio Kim were the top finishers in the other flights.

Liang ruled the A Flight after posting a 162 (79 and 83), three shots ahead of Ned Norita (165). Freddy Salavaria (167), Sebastian Camacho (167), and Ray Aguon (172) completed the Top 5 in the division.

Hocog led the Top 5 in the B Flight after carding a 165 (83 and 82) and nipping Alex Sablan 165. The B Flight had a close fight, as third placer Ed Tenorio was just two strokes behind Sablan, while fourth placer Bi Weon Park was ahead by only one shot against Ben Mabborang, 169-170.

In the C Flight, there was also a neck-and-neck battle between Suryong Kim and J.J. Concepcion with the former getting the victory, 172-173. A close third was Patrick George (174), who won the tiebreak against Herman Kintol (174), while Jim Arenovski (179) took fifth place after also prevailing in a deadlock.

In the Super Seniors, Sablan walked away with a three-shot win over Victor Borja, as the former fired a 158 (78 and 80) against the latter's 161 (79 and 82). Tony Satur (165), Rick Kautz (166), and Joseph Sablan (168) completed the podium finishers.

In the Ladies Low Gross, the Top 3 was decided by only one stroke with Yoo claiming the title after shooting a 162 (84 and 78). Guam's Emeri Sunga had a 163 (79 and 84) to settle for the runner-up honors, while Saipan's Yuko Togawa's 164 (83 and 81) landed her on third place. In the Ladies Low Net, Mio Kim recorded a 147.60 and was joined in the Top 3 by Tessie Blair (147.80) and Seo Yeon Jeon (148).

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ladies Low Gross third placer Yuko Togawa, third left, poses with, from left, DFS Saipan vice president for store operations Milan Rabold, 2019 Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto, and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres during the awards ceremony for the 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions last Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

NMIFA

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competitive level," NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita said.

"These skills, techniques, and understandings must be acquired incrementally from the younger age. So, at U14, CNMI players often lag behind as compared to other national players across the East Asian Football Federation. Through the Junior Academy, we aim to provide these essential skills and knowledge at a younger age," he added.

The NMIFA official also said they will have the academy in the regular calendar of events of the association.

Guest coach

Meanwhile, the Junior Academy had a guest coach in Japanese Ryuji Sueoka.

Sueoka calls the shot for the men's team of St. Catherine University in Matsuyama, Japan. He conducted a clinic for the Junior Academy last month at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville, and worked with U13 and U11 players. The visiting coach also joined a small-sided game with the Commonwealth's young players.

Before coaching St. Catherine University, Sueoka played in the J1 League for the Albirex Niigata, starting in 2002. His professional football career lasted for 13 years, as he suited up for teams in Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and India. In his final pro season, Sueoka was named Best Player of India's premier league (I League)

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Coach Gene Weaver gives instructions to players before they start a small-sided game during a session in the NMI Junior National Academy early this month at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Reed delivers clutch putts to win FedEx Cup opener

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‘Kamikaze’ cruises to TOC win

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Joe “Kamikaze” Camacho watches his shot from the fairway to the green during the second and final round of the 24th Governor’s Tournament of Champions last Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Joe “Kamikaze” Camacho leaned on his strong first round showing to reclaim the Senior Flight crown in the 24th Governor’s Tournament of Champions held over the weekend at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Camacho fired a 1-under par 71 on the west course in the opening round last Saturday, matching the tournament’s best single score made by eventual Championship Flight winner Louie Sunga of Guam. Camacho, who topped the Senior Flight in 2017, but failed on his title defense bid last year after placing only third behind Hoon Joung Park and Freddie Cataluna, earned a seven-stoke lead over Rene Batallones (78) after the first round. The Pacific Games veteran then kept the driver’s seat and regained the division title after shooting a 5-over 77 in the second and final round on the east course last Sunday.

Camacho’s 77 was also the best score in the last round, as he romped past the 19 other competitors in the Senior Flight. The Laolao instructor ended up with a 148 and won by 13 strokes against John Lee, who tallied an 83 and 78 for a two-day total of 161. Guam’s Daryl Poe clinched third place after beating Tars Olopai and Hong Kong’s Kei Hin Tang in the playoffs. The three tied players recorded 162, with Poe posting an 84 and 78, the fourth placer Olopai having an 80 and 82, and Tang registering an 82 and 80.

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Connie’s BBQ, Saipan Adventure prevail

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Connie’s BBQ and Saipan Adventure downed their respective opponents in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

In last Thursday’s match of the Tsingtao Beer-sponsored league, Saipan Adventure hammered IT&E Light, 93-66. Connie’s BBQ, on the other hand, played last Friday and prevailed over RNV Construction, 82-74.

Connie’s BBQ sizzled in the first half to establish a big lead and never looked back, as it withstood RNV Construction’s repeated comeback bids in the second. A pair of 23 points in the first and second periods gave Connie’s BBQ a 46-26 halftime lead. Nelson Cabang led Connie’s BBQ’s early uprising, as he finished the half with 13 points, while Austin Camacho and Ronald Esmores added 7 apiece. Three other Connie’s BBQ players contributed at least two baskets each for the team’s balance offense.

RNV Construction lagged behind, as it was held to five field goals each in the first and second quarters with Ronald Rueda carrying majority of the load for the team.

Rueda continued to anchor RNV Construction’s offense in the second half where his squad finally scored 20-

See CONNIE’S on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Connie’s BBQ’s Darwin Barbo pulls up for a long jumper in an earlier game against IT&E Dark in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

NMIFA offers additional grassroots program

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association has just completed a new grassroots program and is committed to continue it in the coming years.

The NMI Junior National Academy was launched in June and is catered for U13 players (girls and boys). The program had 15 sessions with each class lasting for about two hours. Coaches from various clubs facilitated the sessions, while CNMI national squad members Enrico Del Rosario and Christopher Aninzo and former Blue Ayuyus Ryan Relucio, who were here for summer vacation, also helped out in the program that concluded early this month.

The academy aims to further hone the skills of youth players, especially those who are being groomed to play for the CNMI national squads.

“The CNMI has a very active youth league, and talented players are selected to be part of the national youth team. While the selected players are relatively more skilled than others, they often lack fundamental skills, such as game techniques and understanding. Also, they may have not received coordination trainings, stretches and exercises to enhance flexibility that are necessary to play soccer at a

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Coach Patrick McCallion conducts a drill during one of the sessions in the NMI Junior National Academy early this month at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.